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THE WORKS

Of the REVEREND

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RECTOR of Wellwyn in Hertfordſhire,

AND

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BRITISH MUSEUM
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DEC

THE COMPLAINT: OR, NIGHT THOUGHTS, ON LIFE, DEATH, AND IMMORTALITY.

Sunt lacrymae rerum, et mentem mortalia tangunt.
VIRG.

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PREFACE.

AS the occaſion of this Poem was real, *not* fictitious, *ſo the method purſued in it was rather* impoſed, *by what ſpontaneouſly aroſe in the author's mind on that occaſion, than* meditated, *or* deſigned: *Which will appear very probable from the nature of it. For it differs from the common mode of Poetry, which is from long narrations to draw ſhort morals. Here, on the contrary, the narrative is ſhort, and the morality ariſing from it makes the bulk of the Poem. The reaſon of it is, That the facts mentioned did naturally pour theſe moral reflections on the thought of the writer.*

NIGHT THE FIRST.

ON

LIFE, DEATH, and IMMORTALITY.

HUMBLY INSCRIBED

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

ARTHUR ONSLOW, Esq;

SPEAKER of the House of Commons.

THE COMPLAINT.

NIGHT THE FIRST.

TIR'D nature's ſweet reſtorer, balmy *ſleep!*
He, like the world, his ready viſit pays
Where fortune ſmiles; the wretched he forſakes:
Swift on his downy pinion flies from woe,
And lights on lids unſully'd with a tear.
From ſhort (as uſual) and diſturb'd repoſe,
I wake: how happy they who wake no more!
Yet that were vain, if dreams infeſt the grave.
I wake, emerging from a ſea of dreams.
Tumultuous; where my wreck'd deſponding thought
From wave to wave of *fancy'd* miſery
At random drove, her helm of reaſon loſt:
Tho' now reſtor'd, 'tis only change of pain,
(A bitter change!) ſeverer for ſevere:
The *day* too ſhort for my diſtreſs! and *night*,
Even in the *Zenith* of her dark domain,
Is ſunſhine to the colour of my fate.
Night, ſable goddeſs! from her *ebon* throne,
In rayleſs majeſty, now ſtretches forth
Her leaden ſceptre o'er a ſlumb'ring world:
Silence, how dead! and darkneſs, how profound!
Nor eye, nor liſt'ning ear an object finds:
Creation ſleeps. 'Tis as the general pulſe
Of life ſtood ſtill, and nature made a pauſe;
An awful pauſe! prophetic of her end.
And let her prophecy be ſoon fulfill'd;

Fate! drop the curtain; I can loſe no more.
Silence, and *darkneſs!* ſolemn ſiſters! twins
From ancient *night*, who nurſe the tender thought
To *reaſon*, and on *reaſon* build *reſolve*,
(That column of true majeſty in man),
Aſſiſt me: I will thank you in the grave;
The grave, your kingdom: *there* this frame ſhall fall
A victim ſacred to your dreary ſhrine.
But what are ye?---THOU, who didſt put to flight
Primæval *ſilence*, when the morning-ſtars
Exulting, ſhouted o'er the riſing ball;
O THOU! whoſe word from ſolid *darkneſs* ſtruck
That ſpark, the ſun; ſtrike wiſdom from my ſoul;
My ſoul which flies to thee, her truſt, her treaſure,
As miſers to their gold, while others reſt.
Thro' this opaque of *nature*, and of *ſoul*,
This double night, tranſmit one pitying ray,
To lighten, and to chear. O lead my mind,
(A mind that fain would wander from its woe),
Lead it thro' various ſcenes of *life*, and *death*;
And from each ſcene, the nobleſt truths inſpire.
Nor leſs inſpire my *conduct*, than my *ſong*;
Teach my beſt reaſon, reaſon; my beſt will,
Teach rectitude; and fix my firm reſolve,
Wiſdom to wed, and pay her long arrear.
Nor let the vial of thy vengeance, pour'd
On this devoted head, be pour'd in vain.
The bell ſtrikes *One*. We take no note of time,
But from its loſs. To give it then a tongue,
Is wiſe in man. As if an angel ſpoke,
I feel the ſolemn ſound. If heard aright,
It is the *knell* of my departed hours.

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Where are they? with the years beyond the flood:
It is the *ſignal* that demands diſpatch;
How much is to be done? my hopes and fears
Start up alarm'd, and o'er life's narrow verge
Look down——on what? a fathomleſs abyſs;
A dread eternity! how ſurely *mine?*
And can eternity belong to me,
Poor penſioner on the bounties of an hour;

How poor, how rich, how abject, how auguſt,
How complicate, how wonderful is man?
How paſſing wonder HE, who made him ſuch?
Who center'd in our make ſuch ſtrange extremes?
From different natures marvellouſly mixt,
Connection exquiſite of diſtant worlds!
Diſtinguiſh'd *link* in being's endleſs chain!
Midway from *nothing* to the *Deity!*
A beam ethereal, ſully'd, and abſorpt!
Tho' ſully'd, and diſhonour'd, ſtill divine!
Dim miniature of greatneſs abſolute!
An heir of glory! a frail child of duſt!
Helpleſs immortal! inſect *infinite!*
A worm! a god!——I tremble at myſelf,
And in myſelf am loſt! at home a ſtranger,
Thought wanders up and down, ſurpriz'd, aghaſt,
And wond'ring at her *own*: how reaſon reels?
O what a miracle to man is man,
Triumphantly diſtreſs'd; what joy, what dread!
Alternately tranſported, and alarm'd!
What can preſerve my life? or what deſtroy?
An angel's arm can't ſnatch me from the grave;
Legions of angels can't confine me there.

'Tis paſt conjecture; all things riſe in proof:

While o'er my limbs *ſleeps* ſoft dominion ſpread,
What tho' my ſoul phantaſtic meaſures trod
O'er fairy fields; or mourn'd along the gloom
Of pathleſs woods; or, down the craggy ſteep
Hurl'd headlong, ſwam with pain the mantled pool;
Or ſcal'd the cliff; or danc'd on hollow winds,
With antic ſhapes, wild natives of the brain?
Her ceaſeleſs flight, tho' devious, ſpeaks her nature
Of ſubtler eſſence than the trodden clod;
Active, aerial, tow'ring, unconfin'd,
Unfetter'd with her groſs companion's fall:
E'en ſilent night proclaims my ſoul *immortal*:
E'en ſilent night proclaims eternal day:
For human weal, Heav'n huſbands all events;
Dull ſleep inſtructs, nor ſport vain dreams in vain.
Why then *their* loſs deplore, that are not loſt?
Why wanders wretched thought their tombs around,
In Infidel diſtreſs? Are *angels* there?
Slumbers, rak'd up in duſt, ethereal fire?
They live! they greatly live a life on earth
Unkindled, unconceiv'd; and from an eye
Of tenderneſs, let heav'nly pity fall
On me, more juſtly number'd with the dead.
This is the deſart, *this* the ſolitude:
How populous, how vital is the grave?
This is creation's melancholy vault,
The vale funereal, the ſad *cypreſs* gloom;
The land of apparitions, empty ſhades!
All, all on earth is *ſhadow*, all beyond
Is *ſubſtance*; the reverſe is folly's *creed*:
How ſolid all, where change ſhall be no more!

This is the bud of being, the dim dawn,
The twilight of our day, the veſtibule;
Life's theatre as yet is ſhut, and death,
Strong death alone can heave the maſſy bar,
This groſs impediment of clay remove,
And make us, embryos of exiſtence, free.
From *real* life, but little more remote
Is *He*, not yet a candidate for light,
The *future* embryo, ſlumbering in his fire.
Embryos we muſt be, till we burſt the ſhell,
Yon ambient, azure ſhell, and ſpring to life;
The life of Gods; O tranſport! and of man.
Yet man, fool man! *here* buries all his thoughts;
Inters celeſtial hopes without one ſigh:
Priſoner of earth, and pent beneath the moon,
Here pinions all his wiſhes; wing'd by Heaven
To fly at infinite; and reach it there,
Where *Seraphs* gather immortality,
On life's fair tree, faſt by the throne of GOD:
What golden joys ambroſial cluſt'ring glow
In HIS full beam, and ripen for the juſt,
Where momentary ages are no more?
Where time and pain, and chance and death, expire?
And is it in the flight of threeſcore years,
To puſh eternity from human thought,
And ſmother ſouls immortal in the duſt?
A ſoul immortal, ſpending all her fires,
Waſting her ſtrength in ſtrenuous idleneſs,
Thrown into tumult, raptur'd, or alarm'd,
At aught this ſcene can threaten, or indulge,
Reſembles *ocean* into tempeſt wrought,

To waft a feather, or to drown a fly.
Where falls this cenſure? it o'erwhelms myſelf.
How was my heart incruſted by the world!
O how ſelf-fetter'd was my grovelling ſoul!
How, like a worm, was I wrapt round and round
In ſilken thought, which reptile *fancy* ſpun,
Till darken'd *reaſon* lay quite clouded o'er
With ſoft conceit of endleſs comfort *here*,
Nor yet put forth her wings to reach the ſkies!
Night-viſions may befriend, (as ſung above):
Our *waking* dreams are fatal: how I dream'd
Of things impoſſible! (could ſleep do more?)
Of joys perpetual in perpetual change!
Of ſtable pleaſures on the toſſing wave!
Eternal ſunſhine in the ſtorms of life!
How richly were my noon-tide trances hung
With gorgeous tapeſtries of pictur'd joys!
Joy behind joy, in endleſs perſpective!
Till at death's toll, whoſe reſtleſs iron tongue
Calls daily for his millions at a meal,
Starting I woke, and found myſelf undone.
Where now my frenzy's pompous furniture?
The *cobweb'd* cottage with its ragged wall
Of mouldering mud, is *royalty* to me!
The *ſpider*'s moſt attenuated thread
Is cord, is cable, to man's tender tie
On earthly bliſs; it breaks at ev'ry breeze.
O ye bleſt ſcenes of *permanent* delight!
Full, above meaſure! laſting, beyond bound!
A *perpetuity* of bliſs is bliſs.
Could you, ſo rich in rapture, fear an end;
That ghaſtly thought would drink up all your joy,

And quite unparadiſe the realms of light.
Safe are you lodg'd above theſe rowling ſpheres;
The baleful influence of whoſe giddy dance
Sheds ſad viciſſitude on all beneath.
Here teems with revolutions every hour;
And rarely for the better; or the beſt,
More mortal than the *common* births of fate.
Each *moment* has its ſickle, emulous
Of *time*'s enormous ſcythe, whoſe ample ſweep
Strikes *empires* from the root; each *moment* plays
His little weapon in the narrower ſphere
Of ſweet *domeſtic* comfort, and cuts down
The faireſt bloom of ſublunary bliſs.
Bliſs! ſublunary bliſs!—proud words, and vain!
Implicit treaſon to divine decree!
A bold invaſion of the rights of Heaven!
I claſp'd the phantoms, and I found them air.
O had I weigh'd it e'er my fond embrace!
What darts of agony had miſs'd my heart?
Death! great proprietor of all! 'tis thine
To tread out empire, and to quench the ſtars.
The ſun himſelf by thy permiſſion ſhines,
And, one day, thou ſhalt pluck him from his ſphere.
Amid ſuch mighty plunder, why exhauſt
Thy *partial* quiver on a mark ſo *mean?*
Why thy *peculiar* rancour wreck'd on me?
Inſatiate archer! could not *one* ſuffice?
Thy ſhaft flew thrice; and thrice my peace was ſlain;
And *thrice*, e'er *thrice* yon moon had fill'd her horn.
O Cynthia! why ſo pale? Doſt thou lament
Thy wretched neighbour? grieve, to ſee thy wheel

Of ceaſeleſs change outwhirl'd in human life?
How wanes my *borrow'd* bliſs? From *fortune*'s ſmile,
Precarious courteſy! not *virtue*'s ſure,
Self-given, *ſolar*, ray of ſound delight.
In every vary'd poſture, place and hour,
How widow'd every thought of every joy?
Thought, buſy thought! too buſy for my peace!
Thro' the dark poſtern of time long elaps'd,
Led ſoftly, by the ſtillneſs of the night,
Led, like a murderer, (and ſuch it proves!),
Strays (wretched rover!) o'er the pleaſing *paſt*;
In queſt of wretchedneſs perverſely ſtrays;
And finds all deſert *now*; and meets the ghoſts
Of my departed joys, a numerous train!
I rue the riches of my former fate;
Sweet comfort's blaſted cluſters I lament;
I tremble at the bleſſings once ſo dear;
And every pleaſure pains me to the heart.
Yet why *complain?* or why complain for one?
Hangs out the ſun his luſtre but for me,
The *ſingle* man? are angels all beſide?
I mourn for millions: 'tis the common lot;
In *this* ſhape, or in *that*, has fate entail'd
The mother's throws on all of woman born,
Not more the children, than ſure heirs of *pain*.
War, famine, peſt, volcano, ſtorm, and fire,
Inteſtine broils, *oppreſſion*, with her heart
Wrapt up in triple braſs, beſiege mankind:
GOD's image, diſinherited of day,
Here plung'd in mines, forgets a ſun was made;
There, beings deathleſs as their haughty lord,
Are hammer'd to the galling oar for life;

And plow the winter's wave, and reap deſpair:
Some for hard maſters, broken under arms,
In battle lopt away, with half their limbs,
Beg bitter bread thro' realms their valour ſav'd,
If ſo the tyrant, or his minion, doom:
Want, and incurable *diſeaſe*, (fell pair!)
On hopeleſs multitudes remorſeleſs ſeize
At once; and make a refuge of the grave:
How groaning *Hoſpitals* eject their dead?
What numbers groan for ſad admiſſion there?
What numbers, once in *fortune*'s lap high-fed,
Solicit the cold hand of charity?
To ſhock us more, ſolicit it in vain?
Ye ſilken ſons of pleaſure! ſince in pains
You rue more modiſh viſits, viſit *here*,
And breathe from your debauch: *give*, and reduce
Surfeit's dominion o'er you: but ſo great
Your impudence, you bluſh at what is right!
Happy! did ſorrow ſeize on *ſuch* alone:
Not *prudence* can defend, nor *virtue* ſave;
Diſeaſe invades the chaſteſt temperance;
And puniſhment the guiltleſs; and alarm
Thro' thickeſt ſhades purſues the fond of peace.
Man's caution often into danger turns,
And his guard falling, cruſhes him to death.
Not *happineſs* itſelf makes good her name;
Our very wiſhes give us not our wiſh.
How diſtant oft the thing we doat on moſt,
From that for which we doat, *felicity*?
The *ſmootheſt* courſe of nature has its pains,
And *trueſt* friends, thro' error, wound our reſt:
Without misfortune, what calamities?

And what hoſtilities, without a foe?
Nor are foes wanting to the beſt on earth:
But endleſs is the liſt of human ills,
And ſighs might ſooner fail, than cauſe to ſigh.
A part how ſmall of the terraqueous globe
Is tenanted by man? the reſt a *waſte*,
Rocks, deſerts, frozen ſeas, and burning ſands;
Wild haunts of monſters, poiſons, ſtings, and death:
Such is earth's melancholy map! But far
More ſad! this earth is a true map of *man*:
So bounded are its haughty lord's *delights*
To *woe's* wide empire; where deep *troubles* toſs,
Loud *ſorrows* howl, envenom'd *paſſions* bite,
Ravenous *calamities* our vitals ſeize,
And threat'ning *fate* wide-opens to devour.
What then am I, who ſorrow for *myſelf?*
In age, in infancy, from others aid
Is all our hope; to teach us to be *kind*.
That, nature's *firſt*, *laſt* leſſon to mankind:
The ſelfiſh heart deſerves the pain it feels;
More generous ſorrow, while it ſinks, exalts,
And conſcious virtue mitigates the pang.
Nor virtue, more than *prudence*, bids me give
Swoln thought a *ſecond* channel; who divide,
They weaken too, the torrent of their grief:
Take then, O *world!* thy much indebted tear:
How ſad a ſight is human happineſs
To thoſe whoſe thought can pierce beyond an hour!
O thou, whate'er thou art, whoſe heart exults,
Wouldſt thou I ſhould congratulate thy fate?
I know thou would'ſt; thy pride demands it from me,
Let thy pride pardon, what thy nature needs,

The ſalutary cenſure of a friend.
Thou happy wretch! by blindneſs art thou bleſt;
By dotage dandled to perpetual ſmiles.
Know, ſmiler! at thy peril art thou pleas'd,
Thy pleaſure is the promiſe of thy pain.
Miſfortune, like a creditor ſevere,
But riſes in demand for her delay;
She makes a ſcourge of paſt proſperity,
To ſting thee more, and double thy diſtreſs.
Lorenzo, fortune makes her court to thee:
Thy fond heart dances, while the *Syren* ſings.
Dear is thy welfare; think me not unkind;
I would not damp, but to ſecure thy joys.
Think not that *fear* is ſacred to the ſtorm:
Stand on thy guard againſt the *ſmiles* of fate.
Is Heav'n tremendous in its frowns? moſt ſure;
And in its favours formidable too;
Its favours here are trials, not rewards;
A call to duty, not diſcharge from care;
And ſhould alarm us, full as much as woes;
Awake us to their *cauſe*, and *conſequence*:
And make us tremble, weigh'd with our deſert;
Awe nature's tumult, and chaſtiſe her joys,
Leſt while we claſp, we kill them; nay invert,
To worſe than *ſimple* miſery, their charms:
Revolted joys, like foes in civil war,
Like boſom friendſhips to reſentment ſour'd,
With rage envenom'd riſe againſt our peace.
Beware what earth calls happineſs; beware
All joys, but joys that never can expire;
Who builds on leſs than an *immortal* baſe,
Fond as he ſeems, condemns his joys to death.

Mine dy'd with thee, *Philander!* thy laſt ſigh
Diſſolv'd the charm; the diſinchanted earth
Loſt all her luſtre. Where her glittering towers?
Her golden mountains, where? all darken'd down
To naked waſte; a dreary vale of tears;
The great magician's dead! Thou poor, pale piece
Of out-caſt earth, in darkneſs! what a change
From yeſterday! Thy darling hope ſo near,
(Long-labour'd prize!) O how ambition fluſh'd
Thy glowing cheek? ambition truly great,
Of virtuous praiſe: *Death's* ſubtle ſeed within,
(Sly, treacherous miner!) working in the dark,
Smil'd at thy well-concerted ſcheme, and beckon'd
The worm to riot on that roſe ſo red,
Unfaded e'er it fell; one moment's prey!

Man's foreſight is *conditionally* wiſe;
Lorenzo! wiſdom into folly turns
Oft, the firſt inſtant, its idea fair
To labouring thought is born. How dim our eye!
The *preſent* moment terminates our ſight;
Clouds, thick as thoſe on doomſday, drown the *next*;
We penetrate, we propheſy in vain.
Time is dealt out by particles; and each,
E'er mingled with the ſtreaming ſands of life,
By fate's inviolable oath is ſworn
Deep ſilence, "Where eternity begins."

By nature's law, what may be, may be *now*;
There's no prerogative in human hours.
In human hearts what bolder thought can riſe,
Than man's preſumption on to-morrow's dawn?
Where is to-morrow? in another world.

For numbers this is certain; the reverſe
Is ſure to none; and yet on this *perhaps*,
This *peradventure*, infamous for lies,
As on a rock of adamant, we build
Our mountain hopes; ſpin out eternal ſchemes,
As we the fatal ſiſters cou'd out-ſpin,
And, big with life's futurities, expire.
Not even *Philander* had beſpoke his ſhroud;
Nor had he cauſe; a warning was deny'd:
How many fall as ſudden, not as ſafe?
As ſudden, tho' for years admoniſh'd home?
Of human ills the laſt extreme beware,
Beware, *Lorenzo!* a *ſlow-ſudden* death.
How dreadful that deliberate ſurpriſe?
Be wiſe to-day, 'tis madneſs to defer;
Next day the fatal precedent will plead;
Thus on, till wiſdom is puſh'd out of life:
Procraſtination is the thief of time,
Year after year it ſteals, till all are fled,
And to the mercies of a moment lives
The vaſt concerns of an eternal ſcene.
If not ſo frequent, would not this be ſtrange?
That 'tis ſo frequent, *this* is ſtranger ſtill.
Of man's miraculous miſtakes, this bears
The palm, "That all men are about to live:"
For ever on the brink of being born.
All pay themſelves the compliment to think
They, one day, ſhall not drivel; and their pride
On this reverſion takes up ready praiſe;
At leaſt, their own; their *future* ſelves applauds;
How excellent that life they *ne'er* will lead?
Time lodg'd in their *own* hands is *folly's* vails;

That lodg'd in *fate*'s, to *wiſdom* they conſign;
The thing they can't but *purpoſe*, they *poſtpone*;
'Tis not in *folly*, not to ſcorn a fool;
And ſcarce in human *wiſdom* to do more.
All *promiſe* is poor dilatory man,
And that thro' every ſtage; when young, indeed
In full content, we ſometimes nobly reſt,
Unanxious for *ourſelves*: and only wiſh,
As duteous ſons, our *fathers* were more wiſe.
At *thirty* man *ſuſpects* himſelf a fool;
Knows it at *forty*, and reforms his plan;
At *fifty* chides his infamous delay,
Puſhes his prudent purpoſe to *reſolve*;
In all the magnanimity of thought
Reſolves; and re-reſolves: then dies the ſame.
And why? becauſe he thinks himſelf immortal:
All men think all men mortal, but themſelves;
Themſelves, when ſome alarming ſhock of fate
Strikes thro' their wounded hearts the ſudden
dread;
But their hearts wounded, like the wounded air,
Soon cloſe, where paſt the ſhaft, no trace is found
As from the *wing* no ſcar the ſky retains;
The parted wave no furrow from the *keel*;
So dies in human hearts the thought of death:
Even with the tender tear which nature ſheds
O'er thoſe we love, we drop it in their grave.
Can I forget *Philander*? That were ſtrange;
O my full heart!——But ſhould I give it vent,
The longeſt night, tho' longer far, would fail,
And the *lark* liſten to my *midnight* ſong.
The ſpritely *lark*'s ſhrill mattin wakes the morn

Grief's ſharpeſt thorn hard-preſſing on my breaſt,
I ſtrive, with wakeful melody, to chear
The ſullen gloom, ſweet *Philomel!* like thee,
And call the ſtars to liſten: every ſtar
Is deaf to mine, enamour'd of thy lay.
Yet be not vain; there are who thine excel,
And charm thro' diſtant ages: wrapt in ſhade,
Priſoner of darkneſs! to the ſilent *hours*,
How often I repeat their rage divine,
To lull my griefs, and ſteal my heart from woe?
I rowl their raptures, but not catch their fire.
Dark, tho' not blind, like thee, *Mæonides!*
Or, *Milton!* thee, ah cou'd I reach your ſtrain?
Or *his*, who made *Mæonides* our *own*.
Man too he ſung: *immortal* man I ſing:
Oft burſts my ſong beyond the bounds of life;
What, *now*, but immortality can pleaſe?
O had *he* preſs'd his theme, purſu'd the track,
Which opens out of darkneſs into day!
O had he mounted on his wing of fire,
Soar'd where I ſink, and ſung *immortal* man!
How had it bleſs'd mankind? and reſcu'd me?

NIGHT THE SECOND.

ON

TIME, DEATH, FRIENDSHIP,

HUMBLY INSCRIBED

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

The EARL of WILMINGTON.

RIGHT THE SECOND.

ON

TIME, DEATH, FRIENDSHIP,

HUMBLY INSCRIBED

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

The EARL of WILMINGTON.

THE

COMPLAINT.

NIGHT THE SECOND.

"*WHEN the* cock *crew, he wept*,"—ſmote by that eye,
Which looks on me, on all: that pow'r, who bids
This midnight centinel with clarion ſhrill,
Emblem of that which ſhall awake the dead,
Rouze ſouls from ſlumber into thoughts of *heaven*.
Shall I too weep? where then is fortitude?
And fortitude abandon'd, where is man?
I know the terms on which he ſees the light:
He that is born, is liſted: life is war,
Eternal war with woe: who bears it beſt,
Deſerves it leaſt.——On *other* themes I'll dwell.
Lorenzo! let me turn *my* thoughts on thee,
And *thine*, on themes may profit; profit there,
Where moſt thy need: themes too, the genuine growth
Of dear *Philander's* duſt. He, *thus*, tho' dead,
May ſtill befriend.——What themes? *Time's wond'rous price*,
Death, *friendſhip*, and *Philander's finai ſcene*.
So could I touch theſe themes, as might obtain
Thine ear, nor leave thy heart quite diſengag'd,
The good deed would delight me; half-impreſs
On my dark cloud an *Iris*; and from grief
Call glory.——Doſt thou mourn *Philander's* fate?
I know thou ſay'ſt it: ſays thy life the ſame?

He mourns the dead, who lives as they deſire.
Where is that thirſt, that avarice of TIME,
(O glorious avarice!) thought of death inſpires,
As rumour'd robberies endear our gold?
O *time!* than gold more ſacred; more a load
Than lead, to fools; and fools reputed wiſe.
What *moment*'s granted man without account?
What *years* are ſquander'd, *wiſdom*'s debt unpaid?
Our wealth in days all due to *that* diſcharge.
Haſte, haſte! he lyes in wait, he's at the door,
Inſidious *death!* ſhould his ſtrong hand arreſt,
No compoſition ſets the priſoner free:
Eternity's inexorable chain
Faſt binds; and vengeance claims the full arrear.
How late I ſhudder'd on the brink? how late
Life call'd for her laſt refuge in deſpair?
That *time* is mine, O *Mead!* to thee I owe;
Fain would I pay thee with *eternity*:
But ill my genius anſwers my deſire;
My ſickly ſong is mortal, paſt thy cure.
Accept the will;—that dies not with my ſtrain.
For what calls *thy* diſeaſe, *Lorenzo?* Not
For *Eſculapian*, but for *moral* aid.
Thou think'ſt it folly to be wiſe too ſoon.
Youth is not rich in *time*; it may be, poor:
Part with *it* as with money, ſparing; pay
No moment, but in purchaſe of its worth:
And what its worth, aſk death-beds, they can tell.
Part with it as with life, reluctant; big
With holy hope of nobler time to come:
Time higher-aim'd, ſtill nearer the great *mark*
Of men and angels; virtue more divine.

Is this our *duty*, *wiſdom*, *glory*, *gain*?
(*Theſe* Heaven benign in vital union binds)
And ſport we like the natives of the bough,
When vernal ſons inſpire! *Amuſement* reigns
Man's great demand: to trifle is to live:
And is it then a trifle, too, to die?
Thou ſay'ſt I *preach*; *Lorenzo!* 'tis confeſt.
What if, for once, I preach thee quite *awake*?
Who wants *amuſement* in the flame of battle?
Is it not treaſon, to the ſoul *immortal*,
Her foes in arms, eternity the prize?
Will toys amuſe, when med'cines cannot cure?
When ſpirits ebb, when life's inchanting ſcenes
Their luſtre loſe, and leſſen in our ſight,
(As lands, and cities with their glitt'ring ſpires,
To the poor ſhatter'd bark, by ſudden ſtorm
Thrown off to ſea, and ſoon to periſh there:)
Will toys amuſe?—No: thrones will then be toys,
And earth and ſkies ſeem duſt upon the ſcale.
Redeem we time?——it's *loſs* we dearly buy.
What pleads *Lorenzo* for his high-priz'd ſports?
He pleads time's numerous *blanks*; he loudly pleads
The ſtraw-like *trifles*, on life's common ſtream.
From whom thoſe *blanks* and *trifles*, but from *thee*?
No *blank*, no *trifle* nature made, or meant.
Virtue, or *purpos'd* virtue ſtill be thine:
This cancels thy complaint at once; *this* leaves
In *act* no trifle, and no *blank* in *time*:
This greatens, fills, immortalizes all;
This, the bleſt art of turning all to gold;
This, the *good* heart's prerogative to raiſe
A royal tribute from the pooreſt hours:

Immenſe revenue! every moment *pays*.
If nothing more than *purpoſe* in thy power,
Thy purpoſe firm, is equal to the dead:
Who does the beſt his circumſtance allows,
Does well, acts nobly; angels could no more.
Our *outward* act, indeed, admits reſtraint;
'Tis not in things o'er *thought* to domineer:
Guard well thy thought; our thoughts are heard in heaven.

On all-important *time*, through every age,
Tho' much, and warm, the wiſe have urg'd; the man
Is yet unborn, who duly weighs an hour.
"*I've loſt a day*,"—the prince who nobly cry'd,
Had been an emperor without his crown;
Of *Rome!* ſay, rather, lord of human race;
He ſpoke, as if deputed by mankind.
So ſhould all ſpeak: ſo *reaſon* ſpeaks in all.
From the ſoft whiſpers of that God in man,
Why fly to folly, why to frenzy fly,
For reſcue from the *bleſſings* we poſſeſs?
Time, the ſupreme!—time is eternity;
Pregnant with all eternity can give;
Pregnant with all that makes archangels ſmile:
Who murders time, he cruſhes in the birth
A power ethereal, only *not* ador'd.

Ah! how unjuſt to nature, and himſelf,
Is thoughtleſs, thankleſs, inconſiſtent man?
Like children babling nonſenſe in their ſports,
We cenſure nature for a ſpan too ſhort;
That ſpan too ſhort, we tax as tedious too,
Torture invention, all expedients tire,
To laſh the ling'ring moments into ſpeed,

And whirl us (happy riddance!) from ourſelves.
Art, brainleſs *art!* our furious charioteer,
(For *nature*'s voice unſtifled would recall)
Drives headlong tow'rds the precipice of death;
Death, moſt our dread; death, *thus* more dreadful made.
O what a riddle of abſurdity?
Leiſure is pain; takes off our chariot-wheels:
How heavily we drag the load of life!
Bleſt leiſure is our curſe; like that of *Cain*,
It makes us wander; wander earth around
To fly that tyrant, Thought. As *Atlas* groan'd
The world beneath, we groan beneath an hour.
We cry for mercy to the next amuſement;
The next amuſement mortgages our fields;
Slight inconvenience! priſons hardly frown,
From hateful *time* if priſons ſet us free.
Yet when *death* kindly tenders us relief,
We call him cruel; years to moments ſhrink,
Ages to years. The teleſcope is turn'd:
To man's falſe optics (from his folly falſe)
Time, in advance, behind him hides his wings,
And ſeems to creep decrepit with his age:
Behold him, when paſt by; what then is ſeen,
But his broad pinions ſwifter than the winds?
And all mankind, in contradiction ſtrong,
Rueful aghaſt! cry out at his career.
Leave to thy foes theſe errors, and theſe ills;
To nature juſt, their *cauſe* and *cure* explore.
Not ſhort Heaven's bounty, boundleſs our expence;
No niggard, nature; men are prodigals.
We *waſte*, not *uſe* our time: we breathe, not live.

Time *waſted* is exiſtence, *us'd* is life:
And *bare exiſtence*, man, to *live* ordain'd,
Wrings, and oppreſſes with enormous weight.
And why? ſince *time* was given for uſe, not waſte,
Enjoin'd to fly; with tempeſt, tide, and ſtars,
To keep his ſpeed, nor ever wait for man;
Time's uſe was doom'd a pleaſure; waſte, a pain;
That man might *feel* his error, if unſeen;
And feeling, fly to labour for his cure:
Not, blundering, ſplit on idleneſs, for eaſe.
Life's cares are comforts; ſuch by Heaven deſign'd;
He that has none, muſt make them, or be wretched.
Cares are employments; and without employ
The ſoul is on a rack; the rack of reſt;
To ſouls moſt adverſe; action all their joy.

Here, then, the riddle, mark'd above, unfolds;
Then time turns torment, when man turns a fool.
We rave, we wreſtle with *great nature's plan*;
We thwart the Deity! and 'tis decreed.
Who thwart his will, ſhall contradict their own.
Hence our unnatural quarrel with ourſelves;
Our thoughts at enmity; our boſom broil;
We puſh time from us, and we wiſh him back,
Laviſh of luſtrums, and yet fond of life:
Life we think long, and ſhort; *death* ſeek, and ſhun;
Body and ſoul, like peeviſh man and wife,
United jar, and yet are loth to part.

Oh the dark days of vanity! while here,
How taſteleſs? and how terrible, when gone?
Gone? they ne'er go; when paſt, they haunt us ſtill;
The ſpirit walks of ev'ry day deceas'd,
And ſmiles an angel, or a fury frowns.

Nor death, nor life delights us. If time *paſt*,
And time *poſſeſt*, both pain us, what can pleaſe?
That which the Deity to pleaſe ordain'd,
Time *us'd*. The man who conſecrates his hours
By vigorous effort, and an honeſt aim,
At once he draws the ſting of life and death:
He *walks with nature*; and her paths are peace.
Our error's cauſe and cure are ſeen: ſee next
Time's *nature*, *orgin*, *importance*, *ſpeed*;
And thy great *gain* from urging his career.—
All ſenſual man, becauſe untouch'd, unſeen,
He looks on *time* as nothing. Nothing elſe
Is truly man's; 'tis fortune's.——Time's a God.
Haſt *thou* ne'er heard of *time's* omnipotence?
For, or *againſt*, what wonders can he do!
And *will*: to ſtand blank *neuter* he diſdains.
Not on *thoſe terms* was *time* (Heaven's ſtranger!) ſent
On his important embaſſy to man.
Lorenzo! no: on the long deſtin'd hour,
From everlaſting ages growing ripe,
That memorable hour of wond'rous birth,
When the DREAD SIRE on emanation bent,
And big with nature, riſing in his might,
Call'd forth creation, (for then *time* was born)
By Godhead ſtreaming thro' a thouſand worlds:
Not on *thoſe terms*, from the great days of heaven,
From old eternity's myſterious orb,
Was *time* cut off, and caſt beneath the ſkies;
The ſkies, which watch him in his new abode,
Meaſuring his motions by revolving ſpheres!
That horologue machinery divine.
Hours, days, and months, and years, his children, play,

Like numerous wings, around him, as he flies:
Or rather, as unequal plumes, they ſhape
His ample pinions, ſwift as darted flame,
To gain his goal, to reach his ancient reſt,
And join anew *eternity*, his ſire;
In his *immutability* to neſt,
When worlds, that count his circles *now*, unhing'd,
(Fate the loud ſignal ſounding) headlong ruſh
To *timeleſs* night, and chaos whence they roſe.
Why ſpur the ſpeedy? why with levities
New-wing thy ſhort, ſhort day's too rapid flight?
Know'ſt thou, or what thou doſt, or what is done?
Man flies from *time*, and *time* from man: too ſoon
In ſad divorce, this double flight muſt end;
And then, where are we? where *Lorenzo!* then,
Thy ſports? thy pomps?—I grant thee, in a ſtate
Not unambitious; in the *ruffled* ſhroud,
Thy *Parian* tomb's *triumphant arch* beneath,
Has *death* his fopperies? then well may *life*
Put on her plume, and in her rainbow ſhine.
Ye well-array'd! ye lilies of our land!
Ye lilies *male!* who neither toil nor ſpin,
(As ſiſter lilies *might*) if not ſo wiſe
As *Solomon*, more ſumptuous to the ſight!
Ye delicate! who nothing can ſupport,
Yourſelves moſt inſupportable! for whom
The winter roſe muſt blow, the ſun put on
A brighter beam in *Leo;* ſilky-ſoft
Favonius, breathe ſtill ſofter, or be chid;
And other worlds ſend odours, ſauce, and ſong,
And robes, and notions, fram'd in foreign looms!
O ye *Lorenzos* of our age! who deem

One moment unamus'd, a miſery
Not made for feeble man! who call aloud
For every bawble, drivel'd o'er by ſenſe;
For rattles, and conceits of every caſt,
For change of follies, and relays of joy,
To drag your patient, through the tedious length
Of a ſhort winter's *day*;—ſay, ſages! ſay,
Wit's oracles! ſay, dreamers of gay dreams!
How will you weather an *eternal night*,
Where ſuch expedients fail?
O treach'rous *conſcience!* while ſhe ſeems to ſleep,
On *roſe* and *myrtle*, lull'd with ſyren ſong;
While ſhe ſeems, nodding o'er her charge, to drop
On headlong *appetite* the ſlacken'd rein,
And give us up to *licence*, unrecall'd,
Unmark'd;—ſee, from behind her ſecret ſtand,
The ſly informer minutes every fault,
And her dread diary with horror fills:
Not the groſs *act* alone employs her pen;
She reconnoitres *fancy*'s airy band,
A watchful foe! The formidably ſpy,
Liſt'ning o'erhears the whiſpers of our camp;
Our dawning purpoſes of heart explores,
And ſteals our embryos of iniquity.
As all-rapacious uſurers conceal
Their doomſday-book, from all-conſuming heirs:
Thus, with indulgence moſt ſevere, ſhe treats
Us, ſpendthrifts of ineſtimable *time*:
Unnoted, notes each moment miſapply'd;
In leaves more durable than leaves of braſs,
Writes our whole hiſtory; which *death* ſhall read

In every pale delinquent's private ear;
And *judgement* publiſh; publiſh to more worlds
Than this; and endleſs age in groans reſound.
Lorenzo, ſuch that *ſleeper* in thy breaſt!
Such is her ſlumber; and her vengeance *ſuch*,
For ſlighted counſel; *ſuch* thy future peace!
And think'ſt thou ſtill thou canſt be wiſe *too ſoon*?
But why on *time* ſo laviſh is my ſong?
On this great theme kind *nature* keeps a ſchool,
To teach her ſons herſelf. Each night we die,
Each morn are born anew; each day, a life!
And ſhall we kill each day? if *trifling* kills;
Sure *vice* muſt butcher. O what heaps of ſlain
Cry out for vengeance on us! *time* deſtroy'd
Is *ſuicide*, where more than *blood* is ſpilt.
Time flies, death urges, knells call, heaven invites,
Hell threatens; all exerts; in effort, all;
More than creation labours!—Labours *more?*
And is there in creation, what, amidſt
This tumult univerſal, wing'd diſpatch,
And ardent energy, ſupinely yawns?——
Man ſleeps; and *man* alone; and *man*, whoſe fate,
Fate irreverſible, entire, extreme,
Endleſs, hair-hung, breeze-ſhaken, o'er the gulph
A moment trembles; drops! and *man*, for whom
All elſe is an alarm; *man*, the ſole cauſe
Of this ſurrounding ſtorm! and yet he ſleeps,
As the ſtorm rock'd to reſt.—Throw *years* away?
Throw *empires*, and be blameleſs. Moments ſeize
Heaven's on their wing: a moment we may wiſh
When worlds want wealth to buy. Bid *day* ſtand
ſtill,

Bid him drive back his car, and reimport
The period paſt, regive the given hour.
Lorenzo, *more* than miracles we want;
Lorenzo—O for yeſterdays to come!
Such is the language of the man *awake*;
His ardor ſuch, for what *oppreſſes* thee.
And is his ardor vain, *Lorenzo?* No;
That *more* than miracle the gods indulge;
To-day is *yeſterday* return'd; return'd
Full power'd to cancel, expiate, raiſe, adorn,
And reinſtate us on the rock of peace.
Let it not ſhare its predeceſſor's fate;
Nor, like its elder ſiſters, die a fool.
Shall it evaporate in fume? fly off
Fuliginous, and ſtain us deeper ſtill?
Shall we be poorer for the plenty pour'd?
More wretched for the clemencies of Heav'n?
Where ſhall I find *him?* Angels! tell me where?
You know him; he is near you: point him out:
Shall I ſee glories beaming from his brow?
Or trace his footſteps by the riſing flow'rs?
Your golden wings, *now* hov'ring o'er him, ſhed
Protection; now, are waving in applauſe
To that bleſt ſon of foreſight! lord of fate!
That awful independent on *to-morrow!*
Whoſe *work is done*; who triumphs in the *paſt*;
Whoſe *yeſterdays* look backwards with a ſmile;
Nor, like the *Parthian*, wound him as they fly;
That common, but opprobrious lot! paſt hours,
If not by guilt, yet wound us by their flight,
If folly bounds our proſpect by the grave,
All feeling of futurity benumb'd;

All godlike paſſion for eternals quench'd;
All reliſh of realities expir'd;
Renounc'd all correſpondence with the ſkies;
Our freedom chain'd; quite wingleſs our deſire,
In ſenſe dark-priſon'd all that ought to ſoar,
Prone to the centre, crawling in the duſt,
Diſmounted every great and glorious aim;
Embruted every faculty divine;
Heart-buried in the rubbiſh of the world,
The world, that gulph of ſouls, immortal ſouls,
Souls elevate, angelic, wing'd with fire
To reach the diſtant ſkies, and triumph there
On thrones, which ſhall not mourn their maſters chang'd;
Tho' we from *earth; ethereal,* they that fell.
Such veneration due, O man, to man.
Who venerate themſelves the world deſpiſe.
For what, gay friend is this *eſcutcheon'd* world.
Which hangs out DEATH in one eternal night;
A night, that glooms us in the noon-tide ray,
And wraps out thought, at banquets, in the ſhroud.
Life's little ſtage is a ſmall eminence,
Inch-high the grave above; that home of man,
Where dwells the multitude: we gaze around,
We read their monuments; we ſigh; and while
We ſigh, we ſink; and *are* what we deplor'd;
Lamenting, or lamented, all our lot!
Is death at diſtance! No: he has been on thee;
And given ſure earneſt of his final blow.
Thoſe hours, that lately ſmil'd, where are they now?
Pallid to thought, and ghaſtly drown'd, all drown'd

In that great deep, which nothing diſembogues;
And, dying, they bequeath'd thee ſmall renown.
The reſt are on the wing; how fleet their flight?
Already has the fatal train took fire;
A moment, and the world's blown up *to thee*:
The ſun is darkneſs, and the ſtars are duſt.
'Tis greatly wiſe to talk with our paſt hours;
And aſk them, what report they bore to heaven;
And how they might have borne more welcome news.
Their anſwers form what men *experience* call;
If *wiſdom*'s friend, her beſt; if not, worſt foe.
O reconcile them; kind *experience* cries,
"There's nothing here, but what as nothing weighs;
"The more our joy, the more we know it vain;
"And by ſucceſs are tutor'd to deſpair."
Nor *is* it only thus, but *muſt* be ſo.
Who knows not this, tho' grey, is ſtill a child.
Looſe then from earth the graſp of fond deſire,
Weigh anchor, and ſome happier clime explore.
Art thou ſo moor'd thou canſt not diſengage,
Nor give thy thoughts a ply to future ſcenes?
Since, by *life*'s paſſing breath, blown up from earth,
Light, as the ſummer's duſt, we take in air
A moment's giddy flight, and fall again;
Join the dull maſs, increaſe the trodden ſoil,
And ſleep till earth herſelf ſhall be no more;
Since *then* (as emmets, their ſmall world o'erthrown)
We, ſore amaz'd, from out earth's ruins crawl,
And riſe to fate extreme of foul or fair,
As man's own choice, (controuler of the ſkies!)
As man's deſpotic will, perhaps *one* hour,
(O how omnipotent is time!) decrees;

Should not each *warning* give a ſtrong alarm?
Warning, far leſs than that of boſom torn
From boſom, bleeding o'er the ſacred dead!
Should not each *dial* ſtrike us as we paſs,
Portentous, as the *written wall*, which ſtruck,
O'er midnight bowls, the proud *Aſſyrian* pale,
Ere-while high-fluſh'd with inſolence and wine?
Like *that*, the dial ſpeaks; and points to thee,
Lorenzo! loth to break the banquet up.
"O man, thy kingdom is departing from thee;
"And, while it laſts, is emptier than my ſhade."
Its ſilent language ſuch: nor need'ſt thou call
Thy *Magi*, to decypher what it means.
Know, like the *Median*, fate is in thy walls:
Doſt aſk, *how? whence? Belſhazzar*-like amaz'd!
Man's make encloſes the ſure ſeeds of death;
Life feeds the murderer: ingrate! he thrives
On her own meal, and then his nurſe devours.
But, here, *Lorenzo*, the deluſion lyes;
That *ſolar ſhadow*, as it meaſures life,
It life reſembles too: life ſpeeds away
From point to point, tho' ſeeming to ſtand ſtill.
The cunning fugitive is ſwift by ſtealth:
Too ſubtle is the movement to be ſeen:
Yet ſoon man's hour is up, and we are gone.
Warnings point out our danger; *gnomons*, time:
As *theſe* are uſeleſs when the ſun is ſet;
So *thoſe*, but when more glorious *reaſon* ſhines.
Reaſon ſhould judge in all; in reaſon's eye,
That ſedentary ſhadow travels hard.
But ſuch our gravitation to the wrong,
So prone our hearts to whiſper what we wiſh,

'Tis later with the wiſe, than he's aware;
A *Wilmington* goes ſlower than the ſun;
And all mankind miſtake their time of day;
Ev'n age itſelf. Freſh hopes are hourly ſown
In furrow'd brows. So gentle life's deſcent,
We ſhut our eyes, and think it is a plain.
We take fair days in winter for the ſpring;
And turn our bleſſings into bane. Since oft
Man muſt *compute* that age he cannot *feel*,
He ſcarce believes he's older for his years.
Thus, at life's lateſt eve, we keep in ſtore
One diſappointment ſure, to crown the reſt;
The diſappointment of a promis'd hour.

On *this*, or ſimilar, *Philander!* thou
Whoſe mind was moral, as the preacher's tongue;
And ſtrong, to wield all ſcience, worth the name;
How often we talk'd down the ſummer's ſun,
And cool'd our paſſions by the breezy ſtream!
How often thaw'd, and ſhorten'd winter's eve,
By conflict kind, that ſtruck out latent truth,
Beſt found, ſo ſought; to the *recluſe* more coy!
Thoughts diſintangle paſſing o'er the lip;
Clean runs the thread; if not, 'tis thrown away,
Or kept to tye up nonſenſe for a ſong;
Song, faſhionably fruitleſs! ſuch as ſtains
The *fancy*, and unhallow'd *paſſion* fires;
Chiming her ſaints to *Cytherea*'s fane.

Know'ſt thou, *Lorenzo!* what a friend contains?
As bees *mixt nectar* draw from fragrant flow'rs,
So men from FRIENDSHIP, *wiſdom* and *delight*:
Twins ty'd by nature, if they part, they die.
Haſt thou no friend to ſet thy mind abroach?

Good ſenſe will ſtagnate. Thoughts ſhut up, want air,
And ſpoil, like bales unopen'd to the ſun.
Had thought been all, ſweet ſpeech had been deny'd
Speech, thought's canal ſpeech! thought's criterion too!
Thought in the mine, may come forth gold or droſs:
When coin'd in word, we know its *real* worth.
If ſterling, ſtore it for thy future uſe;
'Twill buy thee benefits; perhaps, renown.
Thought too, deliver'd, is the more poſſeſt;
Teaching, we learn; and, giving, we retain
The births of intellect; when dumb, forgot.
Speech ventilates our intellectual fire;
Speech burniſhes our mental magazine;
Brightens, for ornament; and whets, for uſe.
What numbers, ſheath'd in erudition, ly,
Plung'd to the hilts in venerable tomes,
And ruſted in; who might have born an edge,
And play'd a ſprightly beam, if born to ſpeech;
If born bleſt heirs of half their mother's tongue?
'Tis thought's exchange, which like th'alternate puſh
Of waves conflicting, breaks the learned ſcum,
And defecates the ſtudent's ſtanding pool.
In *contemplation* is his proud reſource?
'Tis poor, as proud, by *converſe* unſuſtain'd.
Rude thought runs wild in *contemplation*'s field;
Converſe, the menage, breaks it to the bit
Of due reſtraint; and *emulation*'s ſpur
Gives graceful energy, by rivals aw'd.
'Tis converſe qualifies for ſolitude;
As exerciſe, for ſalutary reſt.
By that untutor'd, *contemplation* raves;

And *nature*'s fool, by *wiſdom*'s is outdone.
Wiſdom, tho' richer than *Peruvian* mines,
And ſweeter than the ſweet ambroſial hive,
What is ſhe, but the means of *happineſs?*
That unobtain'd than folly more a fool;
A melancholy fool, without her bells.
Friendſhip, the means of wiſdom, richly gives
The precious end, which makes our wiſdom wiſe.
Nature, in zeal for human amity,
Denies, or damps an *undivided* joy.
Joy is an import; joy is an exchange;
Joy flies monopoliſt: it calls for *two*;
Rich fruit! heav'n-planted! never pluckt by *one*,
Needful auxiliars are our friends, to give
To *ſocial* man true reliſh of himſelf.
Full on ourſelves deſcending in a line
Pleaſure's bright beam, is feeble in delight
Delight intenſe, is taken by rebound;
Reverberated pleaſures fire the breaſt.
Celeſtial *happineſs*, whene'er ſhe ſtoops
To viſit earth, one ſhrine the goddeſs finds,
And one alone, to make her ſweet amends
For abſent heav'n——the boſom of a friend;
Where heart meets heart reciprocally ſoft,
Each other's pillow to repoſe divine.
Beware the counterfeit: In *paſſion*'s flame
Hearts melt; but melt like ice, ſoon harder froze.
True love ſtrikes root in *reaſon*; paſſion's foe:
Virtue alone entenders us for life;
I wrong her much——entenders us for ever.
Of *friendſhip*'s faireſt fruits, the fruit moſt fair
Is *virtue* kindling at a rival fire,

And, *emulouſly*, rapid in her race.
O the ſoft enmity! endearing ſtrife!
This carries friendſhip to her noon-tide point,
And gives the rivet of eternity.
From *friendſhip*, which outlives my former themes,
Glorious ſurvivor of old *time*, and *death!*
From friendſhip, thus, that flow'r of heavenly ſeed,
The wiſe extract earth's moſt *Hyblean* bliſs,
Superior wiſdom, crown'd with ſmiling joy.
But for whom bloſſoms this *Elyſian* flower?
Abroad they find, who cheriſh it, at *home*.
Lorenzo! pardon what my love extorts,
An honeſt love, and not afraid to frown.
Tho' choice of follies faſten on the *great*,
None clings more obſtinate, than fancy fond,
That ſacred friendſhip is their eaſy prey;
Caught by the wafture of a golden lure;
Or faſcination of a high-born ſmile.
Their ſmiles, the *great*, and the *coquet*, throw out
For others hearts, tenacious of their own;
And we no leſs of ours, when *ſuch* the bait.
Ye fortune's cofferers! ye powers of wealth!
Can gold gain friendſhip? impudence of hope!
As well mere man an angel might beget.
Love, and love only, is the loan for love.
Lorenzo! pride repreſs; nor hope to find
A friend, but what has found a friend in thee.
All like the purchaſe; few the price will pay;
And this makes friends ſuch miracles below.
What if (ſince daring on ſo nice a theme)
I ſhew thee friendſhip delicate, as dear,

Of tender violations apt to die?
Reſerve will wound it; and *diſtruſt*, deſtroy.
Deliberate on all things with thy friend:
But ſince friends grow not thick on ev'ry bough,
Nor ev'ry friend unrotten at the core;
Firſt, on thy friend, deliberate with thyſelf;
Pauſe, ponder, ſift; not eager in the choice,
Nor jealous of the choſen; fixing, fix;
Judge before friendſhip, then confide till death.
Well, for thy friend; but nobler far for thee;
How gallant danger for earth's higheſt prize?
A friend is worth all hazards we can run.
"Poor is the friendleſs maſter of a world:
"A world in purchaſe for a friend is gain."
So ſung he (angels hear that angels ſing!
Angels from from friendſhip gather half their joy)
So ſung *Philander*, as his friend went round
In the rich *Ichor*, in the generous blood
Of *Bacchus*, purple god of joyous wit,
A brow ſolute, and ever-laughing eye.
He drank long health, and virtue to his friend;
His friend, who warm'd him more, who more inſpir'd.
Friendſhip's the wine of life; but friendſhip *new*
(Not ſuch was his) is neither ſtrong, nor pure.
O! for the bright complexion, cordial warmth,
And elevating ſpirit, of a friend,
For twenty ſummers ripening by my ſide;
All feculence of falſehood long thrown down:
All ſocial virtues riſing in his ſoul;
As cryſtal clear; and ſmiling as they riſe!
Here nectar flows; it ſparkles in our ſight;
Rich to the taſte and genuine from the heart.

High-flavour'd bliſs for gods! on earth how rare!
On earth how *loſt!*—*Philander* is no more.
Think'ſt thou the theme intoxicates my ſong?
Am I too warm? too warm I cannot be.
I lov'd him much; but now I love him more.
Like birds, whoſe beauties languiſh, half conceal'd
Till mounted on the wing, their gloſſy plumes
Expanded ſhine with azure, green, and gold;
How bleſſings brighten as they take their flight,
His flight *Philander* took; his upward flight,
If ever ſoul aſcended. Had he dropt,
(That eagle genius!) O had he let fall
One feather as he flew; I then had wrote,
What friends might flatter; prudent foes forbear;
Rivals ſcarce damn; and *Zoilus* reprieve.
Yet what I can I muſt: it were profane
To quench a glory lighted at the ſkies,
And caſt in ſhadows his illuſtrious cloſe.
Strange! the theme moſt affecting, moſt ſublime,
Momentous moſt to man, ſhou'd ſleep unſung!
And yet it ſleeps, by genius unawak'd,
Painim or *Chriſtian*; to the bluſh of wit.
Man's higheſt triumph! man's profoundeſt fall!
The *death-bed* of the juſt! is yet undrawn
By mortal hand: it merits a divine:
Angels ſhould paint it, angels ever *there*;
There on a poſt of honour, and of joy.
Dare I preſume, then? but *Philander* bids:
And glory tempts, and inclination calls——
Yet am I ſtruck; as ſtruck the ſoul, beneath
Aerial *groves* impenetrable gloom;
Or, in ſome mighty *ruin*'s ſolemn ſhade;

Or, gazing by pale lamps on *high-born duſt*,
In vaults; thin courts of poor unflatter'd kings!
Or, at the midnight *altar's* hallow'd flame.
It is religion to proceed: I pauſe——
And, enter, aw'd, the temple of my theme.
Is it his death-bed! No, it is his ſhrine;
Behold him, there, juſt riſing to a god.
The chamber where the good man meets his fate,
Is privileg'd beyond the common walk
Of *virtuous* life, quite in the verge of heaven.
Fly ye profane! if not, draw near with awe,
Receive the bleſſing, and adore the chance,
That threw in this *Betheſda* your diſeaſe;
If unreſtor'd by This, deſpair your cure.
For, *here*, reſiſtleſs demonſtration dwells;
A death-bed's a detector of the heart.
Here tir'd *diſſimulation* drops her maſque,
Thro' life's grimace that miſtreſs of the ſcene!
Here real, and apparent, are the ſame.
You ſee the *man*; you ſee his hold on heav'n;
If ſound his virtue; as *Philander's* ſound.
Heav'n waits not the laſt moment, owns her friends
On this ſide death; and points them out to men,
A lecture, ſilent, but of ſovereign pow'r!
To vice, confuſion; and to virtue, peace.
Whatever farce the boaſtful hero plays,
Virtue alone has majeſty in death;
And greater ſtill the more the tyrant frowns.
Philander! he ſeverely frown'd on thee.
"No warning given! unceremonious fate!
"A ſudden ruſh from life's meridian joys!
"A wrench from all we *love!* from all we *are!*

" A reſtleſs bed of pain! a plunge opaque
" Beyond conjecture! feeble *nature*'s dread!
" Strong *reaſon*'s ſhudder at the dark unknown!
" A ſun extinguiſh'd! a juſt opening grave!
" And oh! the laſt, laſt; what? (can words expreſs!
" Thought reach it? the laſt—*ſilence* of a friend!"
Where are thoſe horrors, that amazement where,
This hideous group of ills, which *ſingly* ſhock,
Demand from man?—I thought him man till *now*.

Thro' nature's wreck, thro' vanquiſh'd agonies
(Like the ſtars ſtruggling thro' this midnight gloom)
What gleams of joy! what more than human peace!
Where, the frail mortal? the poor abject worm?
No, not in death, the *mortal* to be found.
His conduct is a legacy for all,
Richer than *Mamon*'s for his ſingle heir.
His comforters he comforts; great in ruin,
With unreluctant grandeur, *gives*, not *yields*
His ſoul ſublime; and cloſes with his fate.

How our hearts burnt within us at the ſcene!
Whence this brave bound o'er limits fix to man?
His God ſuſtains him in his final hour!
His final hour brings glory to his God!
Man's glory heaven vouchſafes to call her own.
We gaze, we weep; mixt tears of grief and joy!
Amazement ſtrikes! Devotion burſts to flame!
Chriſtians adore! and *Infidels* believe.

As ſome tall tower, or lofty mountain's brow,
Detains the ſun, illuſtrious from its height;
While riſing vapours and deſcending ſhades,
With damps, and darkneſs, drown the ſpacious vale
Undamp'd by doubt, undarken'd by deſpair.

Philander, thus, auguſtly rears his head,
At that black hour, which gen'ral horror ſheds
On the low level of th' inglorious throng:
Sweet *peace*, and heavenly *hope*, and humble *joy*,
Divinely beam on his exalted ſoul;
Deſtruction gild, and crown him for the ſkies,
With incommunicable luſtre, bright.

NIGHT THE THIRD.

NARCISSA.

Humbly inſcribed to HER GRACE

The DUCHESS of P———

Ignoſcenda quidem, ſcirent ſi ignoſcere manes. VIRG.

THE COMPLAINT.

NIGHT THE THIRD.

FROM *dreams*, where thought in fancy's maze runs mad,
To *reaſon*, that heav'n-lighted lamp in man,
Once more I wake; and at the deſtin'd hour,
Punctual as lovers to the moment ſworn,
I keep my aſſignation with my woe.
O! loſt to virtue, loſt to manly thought,
Loſt to the noble ſallies of the ſoul!
Who think it ſolitude to be alone.
Communion ſweet! communion large and high!
Our *Reaſon*, *guardian angel*, and our *God!*
Then neareſt theſe, when others moſt remote;
And all, ere long, ſhall be remote, *but* theſe.
How dreadful, *then*, to meet them all alone,
A ſtranger! unacknowledg'd! unapprov'd!
Now woo them; wed them; bind them to thy breaſt:
To win thy wiſh, creation has no more.
Or if we wiſh a *fourth*, it is a friend——
But friends, how mortal! dang'rous the deſire.
Take *Phœbus* to yourſelves, ye baſking bards!
Inebriate at fair fortune's fountain-head,
And reeling thro' the wilderneſs of joy;
Where *ſenſe* runs ſavage, broke from *reaſon*'s chain,
And ſings falſe peace, till ſmother'd by the pall.

My fortune is unlike; unlike my ſong;
Unlike the Deity my ſong invokes.
I to *day*'s ſoft-ey'd ſiſter pay my court,
(*Endymion*'s rival !) and her aid implore;
Now firſt implor'd in ſuccour to the *muſe*.
Thou who didſt lately borrow * *Cynthia*'s form,
And modeſtly forego thine own ! O thou,
Who didſt thyſelf, at midnight hours, inſpire !
Say, why not *Cynthia*, patroneſs of ſong ?
As thou her creſcent, ſhe thy character
Aſſumes; ſtill more a goddeſs by the change.
Are there demurring wits, who dare diſpute
This revolution in the world *inſpir'd?*
Ye train *Pierian !* to the *lunar* ſphere,
In ſilent hour, addreſs your ardent call
For aid immortal; leſs her brother's right.
She, with the ſpheres harmonious, nightly leads
The mazy dance, and hears their matchleſs ſtrain,
A ſtrain for gods ! deny'd to mortal ear.
Tranſmit it, heard, thou ſilver queen of heaven !
What title, or what name endears thee moſt ?
Cynthia ! Cyllene ! Phœbe !——or doſt hear
With higher guſt, fair *P*——*d* of the ſkies !
Is that the ſoft inchantment calls thee down,
More pow'rful than of old *Circean* charm ?
Come; but from heavenly banquets with thee bring
The ſoul of ſong; and whiſper in mine ear
The theſt divine; or in propitious dreams
(For dreams are thine) transfuſe it thro' the breaſt
Of thy firſt votary——but not thy laſt;
If, like thy *name-ſake*, thou art ever kind.

* At the duke of *Norfolk*'s maſquerade.

And kind thou wilt be; kind on ſuch a theme;
A theme ſo like thee, a quite *lunar* theme,
Soft, modeſt, melancholy, female, fair?
A theme that roſe all-pale, and told my ſoul,
'Twas night; on her fond hopes perpetual night;
A night which ſtruck a damp, a deadlier damp,
Than that which ſmote me from *Philander*'s tomb.
Narciſſa follows, ere his tomb is clos'd.
Woes cluſter; rare are *ſolitary* woes;
They love a train, they tread each other's heel;
Her death invades *his* mournful right, and claims
The grief that ſtarted from my lids for him:
Seizes the faithleſs, alienated tear,
Or ſhares it, ere it falls. So frequent death,
Sorrow, he *more* than cauſes, he confounds;
For human ſighs his rival ſtrokes contend,
And make diſtreſs, diſtraction. Oh *Philander!*
What was thy fate? a double fate to me;
Portent, and pain! a menace, and a blow!
Like the black raven hov'ring o'er my peace.
Not leſs a bird of omen, than of prey.
It call'd *Narciſſa* long before her hour;
It call'd her tender ſoul, by break of bliſs,
From the firſt bloſſom, from the buds of joy;
Thoſe few our noxious fate unblaſted leaves
In this inclement clime of human life.
Sweet harmoniſt! and beautiful as ſweet!
And young as beautiful! and ſoft as young!
And gay as ſoft! and innocent as gay?
And happy (if aught happy *here*) as good!
For fortune found had built her neſt on high.
Like birds quite exquiſite of note and plume,

Transfixt by *fate* (who loves a lofty mark)
How from the ſummit of the grove ſhe fell,
And left it unharmonious! all its charm
Extinguiſh'd in the wonders of her ſong!
Her ſong ſtill vibrates in my raviſh'd ear,
Still melting there, and with voluptuous pain.
(O to forget her!) thrilling thro' my heart!
Song, beauty, youth, love, virtue, joy; this group
Of bright ideas, flow'rs of paradiſe,
As yet unforfeit! in one blaze we bind,
Kneel and preſent it to the ſkies; as all
We gueſs of heav'n: and theſe were all her own;
And ſhe was mine; and I was—*was!*—moſt bleſt,
Gay title of the deepeſt miſery!
As bodies grow more pond'rous, robb'd of life;
Good loſt weighs more in grief, than gain'd, in joy
Like bloſſom'd trees o'erturn'd by vernal ſtorm,
Lovely in death the beauteous ruin lay;
And if in death ſtill lovely, lovelier there:
Far lovelier! pity ſwells the tide of love:
And will not the ſevere excuſe a ſigh?
Scorn the proud man that is aſham'd to weep;
Our tears *indulg'd* indeed deſerve our ſhame.
Ye that e'er loſt an angel! pity me.
Soon as the luſtre languiſh'd in her eye,
Dawning a dimmer day on human ſight;
And on her cheek, the reſidence of ſpring,
Pale omen ſat; and ſcatter'd fears around
On all that ſaw (and who would ceaſe to gaze,
That once had ſeen?) with haſte parental haſte,
I flew, I ſnatch'd her from the rigid north,
Her native bed, on which bleak *Boreas* blew,

And bore her nearer to the ſun; the ſun
(As if the ſun could envy) check'd his beam,
Deny'd his wonted ſuccour, nor with more
Regret beheld her drooping, than the bells
Of lilies; faireſt lilies, not ſo fair.
Queen lilies! and ye painted [redacted]! Blushes
Who dwell in fields, and lead ambroſial lives,
In morn and ev'ning dew your beauties bathe,
And drink the ſun; which gives your cheeks to glow,
And out-bluſh (*mine* excepted) ev'ry fair;
You gladlier grew, ambitious of her hand,
Which often crop'd your odours, incenſe meet
To thought ſo pure! Ye lovely fugitives!
Coeval race with man! for man you ſmile;
Why not ſmile *at* him too; you ſhare indeed
His ſudden paſs; but not his conſtant pain.
So man is made, nought miniſters delight,
But what his glowing paſſions, can engage;
And glowing paſſions, bent on aught below,
Muſt, ſoon or late, with anguiſh turn the ſcale;
And anguiſh, after rapture, how ſevere!
Rapture? bold man! who tempts the wrath divine,
By plucking fruit deny'd to mortal taſte,
While *here*, preſuming on the rights of Heaven.
For tranſport doſt thou call on ev'ry hour,
Lorenzo? At thy friend's expence be wiſe;
Lean not on earth; 'twill pierce thee to the heart,
A broken reed, at beſt; but, oft, a ſpear;
On its ſharp point peace bleeds, and hope expires.
Turn hopeleſs thought! turn from her:—thought repell'd,
Reſenting rallies, and wakes ev'ry woe.

Snatch'd ere thy prime! and in thy bridal hour!
And when kind fortune, with thy lover ſmil'd!
And when high-flavour'd thy freſh-op'ning joys!
And when blind man pronounc'd thy bliſs complete!
And on a foreign ſhore; where ſtrangers wept!
Strangers to thee, and, more ſurpriſing ſtill,
Strangers to kindneſs, wept: their eyes let fall
Inhuman tears; ſtrange tears! that trickled down
From marble hearts! obdurate tenderneſs!
A tenderneſs that call'd them more ſevere;
In ſpite of nature's ſoft perſuaſion, ſteel'd;
While *nature* melted, *ſuperſtition* rav'd;
That mourn'd the dead; and *this* deny'd a grave.
Their ſighs incens'd; ſighs foreign to the will!
Their will the *tyger* ſuck'd, outrag'd the ſtorm.
For oh! the curſt ungodlineſs of zeal!
While *ſinful fleſh* relented, *ſpirit* nurſt
In blind *infallibility*'s embrace,
The *ſainted ſpirit* petrify'd the breaſt;
Deny'd the charity of duſt, to ſpread
O'er duſt! a charity their dogs enjoy.
What could I do? what ſuccour? what reſource?
With pious ſacrilege, a grave I ſtole;
With impious piety, that grave I wrong'd;
Short in my duty; coward in my grief!
More like her murderer, than friend, I crept,
With ſoft-ſuſpended ſtep; and muffled deep
In mid-night darkneſs, *whiſper'd* my laſt ſigh.
I *whiſper'd* what ſhould echo thro' their realms!
Nor writ her name, whoſe tomb ſhou'd pierce the ſkies.
Preſumptuous fear! how durſt I dread her foes,

While nature's loudeſt dictates I obey'd?
Pardon neceſſity, bleſt ſhade! of grief
And indignation rival burſts I pour'd;
Half-execration mingled with my prayer;
Kindled at man, while I his GOD ador'd;
More grudg'd the ſavage land her ſacred duſt:
Stampt the curſt ſoil; and with humanity
Deny'd *Narciſſa*) wiſh'd them all a grave.
Glows my reſentment into guilt! what guilt
Can equal violations of the dead?
The dead how ſacred! ſacred is the duſt
Of this heav'n-labour'd form, erect, divine!
This heav'n-aſſum'd majeſtic robe of earth,
He deign'd to wear, who hung the vaſt expanſe
With azure bright, and cloath'd the ſun in gold.
When ev'ry paſſion ſleeps that can offend;
When ſtrikes us ev'ry motive that can melt;
When man can wreak his rancour uncontroul'd,
What ſtrongeſt curb on inſult and ill-will;
Then, ſpleen to *duſt?* the duſt of innocence?
An angel's duſt!——This *Lucifer* tranſcends;
When he contended for the patriarch's bones,
'Twas not the ſtrife of malice, but of pride;
The ſtrife of pontiff pride, not pontiff gall.
Far leſs than this is ſhocking in a race
Loſt *wretched*, but from ſtreams of mutual love;
And *uncreated*, but for love divine:
And but for love divine, this moment, loſt,
By fate reſorb'd, and ſunk in endleſs night.
Can hard of heart to man! of horrid things
Moſt horrid! 'mid ſtupendous, highly ſtrange!
Yet oft his courteſies are ſmoother wrongs;

Pride brandiſhes the favours he confers,
And contumelious his humanity:
What then his vengeance? hear it not, ye ſtars!
And thou, pale moon! turn paler at the ſound;
Man is to man the ſoreſt, ſureſt ill.
A previous blaſt foretels the riſing ſtorm;
O'erwhelming turrets threaten ere they fall;
Volcano's bellow air they diſembogue;
Earth trembles ere her yawning jaws devour;
And ſmoke betrays the wide-conſuming fire:
Ruin from man is moſt conceal'd when near,
And ſends the dreadful tidings in the blow.
Is this the flight of fancy? would it were!
Heav'n's Sov'reign ſaves all beings but himſelf
That hideous ſight, a *naked* human heart.
Fir'd is the muſe? and let the muſe be fir'd:
Who not inflam'd, when what he ſpeaks, he fee
And in the nerve moſt tender, in his friends?
Shame to mankind! *Philander* had his foes;
He felt the truths I ſing, and I in him.
But he, nor I, feel more; paſt ills, *Narciſſa!*
Are ſunk in thee, thou recent wound of heart!
Which bleeds with other cares, with other pang
Pangs num'rous, as the num'rous ills that ſwarm
O'er thy diſtinguiſh'd fate, and, cluſt'ring there
Thick as the locuſts on the land of *Nile*,
Made death more deadly, and more dark the grav
Reflect (if not forgot my touching tale)
How was each circumſtance with aſpics arm'd!
An aſpic, each; and all, an *Hydra*-woe.
What ſtrong *Herculean* virtue could ſuffice?—
Or is it virtue to be conquer'd here?

This hoary cheek a train of tears bedews;
And each tear mourns its own diſtinct diſtreſs;
And each diſtreſs, diſtinctly mourn'd, demands
Of grief ſtill more, as heighten'd by the whole.
A grief like *this* proprietors excludes:
Not friends alone ſuch obſequies deplore;
They make mankind the mourner; carry ſighs
Far as the fatal *fame* can wing her way,
And turn the gayeſt thought of gayeſt age,
Down their right channel, thro' the vale of death.
The vale of death! that huſh'd *Cimmerian* vale,
Where *darkneſs*, brooding o'er unfiniſh'd fates,
With raven wing incumbent, waits the day
Dread day!) that interdicts all future change.
That ſubterranean world, that land of ruin!
Sit walk, *Lorenzo*, for proud human thought!
There let my thought expatiate; and explore
Balſamic truths, and healing ſentiments,
Of all moſt wanted, and moſt welcome, *here*.
For gay *Lorenzo*'s ſake, and for thy own,
My ſoul! "The fruits of dying friends ſurvey;
"Expoſe the *vain* of live; weigh life and death:
"Give death his eulogy; thy fear ſubdue;
"And labour that firſt palm of noble minds,
"A manly ſcorn of terror from the tomb."
This harveſt reap from thy *Narciſſa*'s grave.
As poets feign'd from *Ajax* ſtreaming blood
Aroſe, with grief inſcribed, a mournful flow'r;
Let wiſdom bloſſom from my mortal wound.
And, *firſt*, of dying friends; what fruit from theſe?
It brings us more than triple aid; an aid
To chaſe our *thoughtleſneſs*, *fear*, *pride*, and *guilt*.

Our dying friends come o'er us like a cloud,
To damp our brainleſs ardors; and abate
That glare of life, which often blinds the wiſe.
Our dying friends are pioneers, to ſmoothe
Our rugged paſs to death; to break thoſe bars
Of terror, and abhorrence, nature throws
Croſs our obſtructed way; and, thus to make
Welcome, as ſafe, our port from ev'ry ſtorm.
Each friend by fate ſnatch'd from us, is a plume
Pluck'd from the wing of human vanity,
Which makes us ſtoop from our aerial heights,
And damp'd with omen of our own deceaſe,
On drooping pinions of ambition lower'd,
Juſt ſkim earth's ſurface, ere we break it up,
O'er putrid earth to ſcratch a little duſt,
And ſave the world a nuiſance. Smitten friends
Are angels ſent on errands full of love;
For us they languiſh, and for us they die:
And ſhall they languiſh, ſhall they die in vain?
Ungrateful, ſhall we grieve their hov'ring ſhades,
Which wait the revolution in our hearts?
Shall we diſdain their ſilent, ſoft addreſs;
Their poſthumous advice, and pious prayer?
Senſeleſs, as herds that graze their hallow'd graves,
Tread under foot their agonies and groans;
Fruſtrate their anguiſh, and deſtroy their deaths?
Lorenzo! no; the thought of death indulge;
Give it its wholeſome empire; let it reign,
That kind chaſtiſer of the ſoul to joy!
Its reign will ſpread thy glory's conqueſt far,
And ſtill the tumults of thy ruffled breaſt:
Auſpicious *æra!* golden days, begin!

The thought of death, ſhall, like a God, inſpire.
And why not think on death? is life the theme
Of ev'ry thought? and wiſh of ev'ry hour?
And ſong of ev'ry joy? ſurpriſing truth!
The beaten ſpaniel's fondneſs not ſo ſtrange.
To wave the numerous *ills* that ſeize on life
As their own property, their lawful prey;
Ere man has meaſur'd half his weary ſtage,
His luxuries have left him no reſerve,
No maiden reliſhes, unbroach'd delights;
On cold-ſerv'd repetitions he ſubſiſts,
And in the taſteleſs *preſent* chews the *paſt*;
Diſguſted chews, and ſcarce can ſwallow down.
Like laviſh anceſtors, his earlier years
Have diſinherited his future hours,
Which ſtarve on *orts*, and *glean* their former field.
Live ever here, *Lorenzo!*—Shocking thought!
So ſhocking, they who wiſh, diſown it too!
Diſown from ſhame, what they from folly crave.
Live ever in the womb, nor ſee the light;
For what live ever here?—With labouring ſtep
To tread our former footſteps? pace the round
Eternal? to climb life's worn, heavy wheel,
Which draws up nothing new? to beat, and beat
The beaten track? to bid each wretched day
The former mock? to ſurfeit on the *ſame*,
And yawn our joys? or thank a miſery
For change, tho' ſad? to ſee what we have ſeen?
Hear, till unheard, the ſame old ſlabber'd tale?
To taſte the taſted, and at each return
Leſs taſteful? o'er our palates to decant
Another vintage? ſtrain a flatter year,

Thro' loaded veſſels, and a laxer tone?
Crazy machines to grind earth's waſted fruits!
Ill-ground, and worſe concocted! load, not life!
The *rational* foul kennels of exceſs!
Still-ſtreaming thorough-fairs of dull debauch!
Trembling each gulp, leſt death ſhould ſnatch the
bowl.
Such of our *fine ones* is the wiſh refin'd!
So would they have it: elegant deſire!
Why not invite the bellowing ſtalls, and wilds?
But ſuch examples might their riot awe.
Thro' want of virtue, that is, want of thought,
(Tho' on *bright thought* they father all their flight
To what are they reduc'd? to love, and hate
The ſame vain world; to cenſure, and eſpouſe
This painted ſhrew of life, who calls them fool
Each moment of each day; to flatter bad
Thro' dread of worſe; to cling to this rude rock,
Barren, *to them*, of good, and ſharp with ills,
And hourly blacken'd with impending ſtorms,
And infamous for wrecks of human hope——
Scar'd at the gloomy gulph, that yawns beneath.
Such are their triumphs! ſuch their pangs of joy
'Tis time, high time, to ſhift this diſmal ſcen
This *hugg'd*, this *hideous* ſtate, what art can cur
One only; but that one, what all may reach;
Virtue——She, wonder-working goddeſs! charm
That *rock* to bloom; and tames the *painted ſhre*
And, what will more ſurprize, *Lorenzo!* gives
To life's ſick, nauſeous *iteration*, change;
And ſtraitens nature's circle to a line.
Believ'ſt thou this, *Lorenzo?* lend an ear,

A patient ear, thou'lt bluſh to diſbelieve.
A languid, leaden iteration reigns,
And ever muſt, o'er thoſe, whoſe joys are joys
Of ſight, ſmell, taſte: the cuckow-ſeaſons ſing
The ſame dull note to ſuch as nothing prize,
But what thoſe ſeaſons, from the teeming earth,
To doating *ſenſe* indulge. But nobler minds,
Which reliſh fruits unripen'd by the *ſun*,
Make their days various; various as the dyes
On the dove's neck, which wanton in *his* rays.
On minds of dove-like innocence poſſeſt,
On light'ned minds, that baſk in virtue's beams,
Nothing hangs tedious, nothing old revolves
In *that*, for which they long; for which they live.
Their glorious efforts, wing'd with heav'nly hope;
Each riſing morning ſees ſtill higher riſe;
Each bounteous dawn its novelty preſents
To worth maturing, *new* ſtrength, luſtre, fame;
While nature's circle, like a chariot-wheel
Rolling *beneath* their elevated aims,
Makes their fair proſpect fairer ev'ry hour;
Advancing *virtue* in a line to *bliſs*;
Virtue, which Chriſtian motives beſt inſpire!
And *bliſs*, which Chriſtian ſchemes alone inſure!
And ſhall we then, for virtue's ſake, commence
Apoſtates? and turn infidels for joy?
A truth it is, few doubt, but fewer truſt,
"He ſins againſt *this* life, who ſlights the *next*."
What is this life? how few their fav'rite know?
Fond in the dark, and blind in our embrace,
By paſſionately loving life, we make
Lov'd life unlovely; hugging her to death.

We give to time eternity's regard;
And, dreaming, take our paſſage for our port.
Life has no value as an end, but means;
An end deplorable! a means divine!
When 'tis our all, 'tis nothing; worſe than nought;
A neſt of pains; when held as nothing, much;
Like ſome fair hum'riſts, life is moſt enjoy'd,
When courted leaſt; moſt worth, when diſeſteem'd;
Then 'tis the ſeat of comfort, rich in peace;
In proſpect, richer far; important! awful!
Not to be mention'd but with ſhouts of praiſe!
Not to be thought on, but with tides of joy!
The mighty baſis of eternal bliſs!
Where now the *barren rook!* the *painted ſhrew?*
Where now, *Lorenzo!* life's *eternal round?*
Have I not made my triple promiſe good?
Vain is the world; but only to the vain.
To what compare we then this varying ſcene,
Whoſe worth ambiguous riſes, and declines?
Waxes and wanes? (in all propitious, *night*
Aſſiſts me here) compare it to the moon;
Dark in herſelf, and indigent; but rich
In borrow'd luſtre from a higher ſphere:
When groſs guilt interpoſes, lab'ring earth,
O'erſhadow'd, mourns a deep eclipſe of joy;
Her joys, at brighteſt, pallid, to that font
Of full effulgent glory, whence they flow.
Nor is that glory diſtant: O *Lorenzo!*
A good man, and an angel! theſe between
How thin the barrier? what divides their fate?
Perhaps a moment; or, perhaps a year;
Or, if an age, it is a moment ſtill;

A moment, or eternity's forgot.
Then, be what once they were, who now are gods:
Be what *Philander* was, and claim the ſkies.
Starts timid nature at the gloomy paſs?
The *ſoft tranſition* call it; and be chear'd:
Such it is often, and why not to thee?
To hope the beſt is pious, brave, and wiſe,
And may itſelf *procure*, what it *preſumes*.
Life is much flatter'd, death is much traduc'd;
Compare the rivals, and the kinder crown.
"*Strange competition!*"—True, *Lorenzo!* ſtrange!
So little *life* can caſt into the ſcale.
Life makes the ſoul dependent on the duſt;
Death gives her wings to mount above the ſpheres.
Thro' chinks, ſtil'd organs, dim *life* peeps at light;
Death burſts th' involving cloud, and all is day;
All eye, all ear, the diſembody'd power.
Death has feign'd evils, *nature* ſhall not feel;
Life, ills ſubſtantial, wiſdom cannot ſhun.
Is not the mighty *mind*, that ſon of heaven!
By tyrant *life* dethron'd, impriſon'd, pain'd!
By *death* enlarg'd, ennobled, deify'd?
Death but entombs the body; *life* the ſoul.
"Is *death* then guiltleſs? How he marks his way
"With dreadful waſte of what deſerves to ſhine?
"Art, genius, fortune, elevated power!
"With various luſtres *theſe* light up the world,
"Which *death* puts out, and darkens human race."
I grant *Lorenzo!* this indictment juſt.
The ſage, peer, potentate, king, conqueror!
Death humbles theſe; more barb'rous *life*, the *man*.
Life is the triumph of our mould'ring clay;

Death, of the ſpirit infinite! divine!
Death has no dread, but what frail life imparts;
Nor *life* true joy, but what kind *death* improves.
No bliſs has *life* to boaſt, till death can give
Far greater; *life*'s a debtor to the grave;
Dark lattice! letting in eternal day.
Lorenzo! bluſh at *fondneſs* for a *life*,
Which ſends celeſtial ſouls on errands vile,
To cater for the ſenſe; and ſerve at boards,
Where ev'ry ranger of the wilds, perhaps
Each reptile, juſtly claims our upper hand.
Luxurious feaſt! a ſoul, a ſoul immortal,
In all the dainties of a brute bemir'd!
Lorenzo! bluſh at *terror* for a *death*,
Which gives thee to repoſe in feſtive bowers,
Where nectars ſparkle, angels miniſter,
And more than angels ſhare, and raiſe, and crown,
And eternize the birth, bloom, burſts of bliſs.
What need I more! O death, the palm is thine.
Then welcome death; thy dreaded harbingers,
Age, and *diſeaſe*; diſeaſe, tho' long my gueſt;
That plucks my nerves, thoſe tender ſtrings of life;
Which pluckt a little more, will toll the bell,
That calls my few friends to my funeral;
Where feeble nature drops, perhaps a tear,
While reaſon and religion, better taught,
Congratulate the dead, and crown his tomb
With wreath triumphant. Death is victory;
It binds in chains the raging ills of life;
Luſt and *ambition*, *wrath* and *avarice*,
Dragg'd at his chariot-wheel, applaud his power.
That ills corroſive, cares importunate,

Are not immortal too, O death! is thine.
Our day of diſſolution!——name it right;
'Tis our great pay-day; 'tis our harveſt, rich
And ripe: what tho' the ſickle, ſometimes keen,
Juſt ſcars us, as we reap the golden grain?
More than thy balm, O *Gilead!* heals the wound.
Birth's feeble cry, and *death*'s deep diſmal groan,
Are ſlender tributes low-tax'd nature pays
For mighty gain: the gain of each a life!
But Oh! the laſt the former ſo tranſcends,
Life dies, compar'd; *life* lives beyond the grave.
And feel I *death!* no joy from thought of thee?
Death, the great counſellor, who man inſpires
With ev'ry nobler thought, and fairer deed!
Death, the deliverer, who reſcues man!
Death, the rewarder, who the reſcu'd crowns!
Death, that abſolves my birth; a curſe without it!
Rich *death*, that realizes all my cares,
Toils, virtues, hopes; without it, a chimera!
Death, of all pain the period, not of joy;
Joy's *ſource*, and *ſubject*, ſtill ſubſiſt unhurt;
One, in my ſoul; and one, in her great Sire;
Tho' the four winds were warring for my duſt.
Yes, and from winds and waves, and central night,
Tho' priſon'd there, my duſt too I reclaim,
(To duſt when drop proud nature's proudeſt ſpheres)
And live entire. Death is the crown of life:
Were death deny'd, poor man would live in vain
Were death deny'd, to live would not be life:
Were death deny'd, ev'n fools would wiſh to die.
Death wounds to cure; we fall; we riſe; we reign!
Spring from our fetters; faſten in the ſkies;

Where blooming *Eden* withers in our ſight;
Death gives us more than was in *Eden* loſt,
This king of terrors is the prince of peace.
When ſhall I die to vanity, pain, death?
When ſhall I *die?*—when ſhall I live for ever?

NIGHT THE FOURTH.

THE

CHRISTIAN TRIUMPH.

CONTAINING

Our only CURE for the FEAR of DEATH;

AND

proper SENTIMENTS of HEART on that inestimable Bleſſing.

HUMBLY INSCRIBED

To the HONOURABLE Mr YORKE.

THE COMPLAINT.

NIGHT THE FOURTH.

A MUCH indebted muſe, O *Yorke!* intrudes.
Amid the ſmiles of fortune, and of youth,
Thine ear is patient of a ſerious ſong.
How deep implanted in the breaſt of man
The dread of death? I ſing its ſov'reign cure.
Why ſtart at death? where is he? death arriv'd
Is paſt; not come, or gone, he's never *here*.
Ere *hope*, *ſenſation* fails; black-boding man
Receives, not *ſuffers* death's tremendous blow.
The knell, the ſhroud, the mattock and the grave;
The deep damp vault, the darkneſs and the worm;
Theſe are the bugbears of a winter's eve,
The terrors of the living, not the dead.
Imagination's fool, and *error*'s wretch,
Man makes a death, which nature never made;
Then on the point of his own fancy falls;
And feels a thouſand deaths, in fearing one.
But were death frightful, what has age to fear?
If prudent, age ſhould meet the friendly foe,
And ſhelter in his hoſpitable gloom.
I ſcarce can meet a monument, but holds
My younger; every date cries—"Come away."
And what recals me? look the world around,
And tell me what: the wiſeſt cannot tell
Should any born of woman give his thought

Full range, on juſt *diſlike*'s unbounded field;
Of things, the vanity; of men, the flaws;
Flaws in the *beſt*; the many, flaw all o'er,
As *leopards* ſpotted, or as *Ethiops* dark;
Vivacious *ill*; *good* dying immature;
(How immature, *Narciſſa*'s marble tells)
And at its death bequeathing endleſs pain;
His heart, tho' bold, would ſicken at the ſight,
And ſpend itſelf in ſighs, for future ſcenes.
But grant to life (and juſt it is to grant
To *lucky* life) ſome perquiſites of joy;
A time there is, when, like a thrice told tale,
Long-rifled life of ſweet can yield no more,
But from our *comment* on the comedy,
Pleaſing *reflections* on parts well ſuſtain'd,
Or purpos'd *emendations* where we fail'd,
Or hopes of plaudits from our candid judge,
When, on their exit, ſouls are bid unrobe,
Toſs *fortune* back her tinſel, and her plume,
And drop this maſk of fleſh behind the ſcene.
With me, that time is come; my world is dead;
A new world riſes, and new manners reign:
Foreign comedians, a ſpruce band! arrive,
To puſh me from the ſcene, or hiſs me there.
What a part race ſtarts up! the ſtrangers gaze,
And I at them; my neighbour is unknown;
Nor that the worſt: ah me! the dire effect
Of loit'ring here, of death defrauded long;
Of old ſo gracious (and let that ſuffice)
My very maſter knows me not.——
Shall I dare ſay, peculiar is the fate;
I've been ſo long remember'd, I'm forgot,

An object ever preſſing dims the ſight,
And hides behind its ardor to be ſeen.
When in his courtiers ears I pour my plaint,
They drink it as the nectar of the great;
And ſqueeze my hand, and beg me come to-morrow;
Refuſal! canſt thou wear a ſmoother form?
Indulge me, nor conceive I drop my theme:
Who cheapens life, abates the *fear of death:*
Twice-told the period ſpent on ſtubborn *Troy*,
Court favour, yet untaken, I beſiege;
Ambition's ill-judg'd effort to be rich,
Alas! ambition makes my little, leſs;
Embitt'ring the poſſeſs'd: why wiſh for more?
Wiſhing, of all employments, is the worſt;
Philoſophy's reverſe! and health's decay!
Were I as plump as ſtall'd theology,
Wiſhing would waſte me to this ſhade again.
Were I as wealthy as a *South-ſea* dream,
Wiſhing is an expedient to be poor.
Wiſhing, that conſtant *hectic* of a fool;
Caught at a court; purg'd off by purer air
And ſimpler diet; gifts of rural life!
Bleſt be that hand divine which gently laid
My heart at reſt beneath this humble ſhade.
The world's a ſtately bark, on dang'rous ſeas,
With pleaſure ſeen, but boarded at our peril:
Here, on a ſingle plank, thrown ſafe aſhore,
I hear the tumult of the diſtant throng,
As that of ſeas remote, or dying ſtorms;
And meditate on ſcenes, more ſilent ſtill;
Purſue my theme, and fight the *fear of death.*
Here, like a ſhepherd gazing from his hut,

Touching his reed, or leaning on his ſtaff,
Eager *ambition*'s fiery chace I ſee;
I ſee the circling hunt of noiſy me,
Burſt law's incloſure, leap the mounds of right,
Purſuing, and purſu'd each other's prey;
As wolves, for rapine; as the fox, for wiles;
Till *death*, that mighty hunter, earths them all.
Why all this toil for triumphs of an hour?
What tho' we wade in wealth, or ſoar in fame?
Earth's higheſt ſtation ends in, "Here he lyes:"
And "duſt to duſt" concludes her nobleſt ſong.
If this ſong lives, poſterity ſhall know
One, tho' in *Britain* born, with courtiers bred,
Who thought ev'n gold might come a day too late;
Nor on his ſubtle death-bed plann'd his ſcheme
For future vacancies in church or ſtate;
Some avocation deeming it—to die;
Unbit by rage canine of dying rich;
Guilt's blunder! and the loudeſt laugh of hell.
O my coevals! remnants of yourſelves!
Poor human ruins, tott'ring o'er the grave!
Shall we, ſhall aged men, like aged trees,
Strike deeper their vile root, and cloſer cling,
Still more enamour'd of this wretched ſoil?
Shall our pale, wither'd hands be ſtill ſtretch'd out,
Trembling at once with eagerneſs and age?
With av'rice and convulſions graſping hard?
Graſping at air! for what has earth beſide?
Man wants but little; nor that little, long;
How ſoon muſt he reſign his very duſt;
Which frugal nature lent him for an hour!
Years *unexperienc'd* ruſh on num'rous ills;

As ſoon as man, *expert* from time, has found
The *key* of life, it opes the gates of death.
When in this vale of years I backward look,
And miſs ſuch numbers, numbers too of ſuch,
Firmer in health, and greener in their age,
And ſtricter on their guard, and fitter far
To play life's ſubtle game, I ſcarce believe
I ſtill ſurvive: and am I fond of life,
Who ſcarce can think it poſſible I live?
Alive by miracle! or what is next,
Alive by *Mead!* if I am ſtill alive,
Who long have bury'd what gives life to live,
Firmneſs of nerve, and energy of thought.
Life's lee is not more *ſhallow* than *impure*
And *vapid*; *ſenſe* and *reaſon* ſhew the door,
Call for my bier, and point me to the duſt.
O thou great Arbiter of life and death!
Nature's immortal, immaterial ſun!
Whoſe all-prolific beam late call'd me forth
From darkneſs, teeming darkneſs, where I lay
The worm's inferior, and, in rank, beneath
The duſt I tread on, high to bear my brow,
To drink the ſpirit of the golden day,
And triumph in exiſtence: and could know
No motive, but my bliſs; and haſt ordain'd
A riſe in bleſſing! with the *patriarch*'s joy,
Thy call I follow to the land unknown;
I truſt in thee, and know in whom I truſt;
Or life, or death, is equal; neither weighs:
All weight in this——O let me live to thee
Tho' *nature's* terrors, *thus*, may be repreſt;
Still frowns grim *death*; guilt points the tyrant's ſpear;

And whence all human guilt? from death forgot.
Ah me! too long I ſet at nought the ſwarm
Of friendly warnings, which around me flew;
And ſmil'd, unſmitten: ſmall my cauſe to ſmile!
Death's admonitions, like ſhafts upwards ſhot,
More dreadful by delay, the longer ere
They ſtrike our hearts, the deeper is their wound.
O think how deep, *Lorenzo! here* it ſtings:
Who can appeaſe its anguiſh? how it burns
What hand the barb'd, envenom'd, thought can draw!
What healing hand can pour the balm of peace,
And turn my ſight undaunted on the tomb?
With joy,—with grief, that *healing hand* I ſee;
Ah! too conſpicuous! it is fix'd on high.
On *high!*—what means my phrenſy? I blaſpheme.
Alas! how *low!* how far beneath the ſkies?
The ſkies it form'd; and now it bleeds for *me*——
But bleeds the balm I want——yet ſtill it *bleeds;*
Draw the dire ſteel—Ah no! the *dreadful* bleſſing
What heart, or can ſuſtain, or dares forego?
There hangs all human hope: that nail ſupports
The falling univerſe: that gone, we drop;
Horror receives us, and the diſmal wiſh
Creation had been ſmother'd in her birth——
Darkneſs his curtain, and his bed the duſt;
When ſtars and ſun are duſt beneath his throne!
In Heav'n itſelf can ſuch indulgence dwell?
O what a groan was there! a groan *not his.*
He ſeiz'd our dreadful right; the load ſuſtain'd;
And heav'd the mountain from a guilty world.
A thouſand worlds, *ſo* bought, were bought too dear!
Senſations *new* in angels boſoms riſe;

Suſpend their ſong; and make a pauſe in bliſs.
O for *their* ſong, to reach my lofty theme!
Inſpire me, *Night!* with all thy tuneful ſpheres;
Whilſt I with *Seraphs* ſhare ſeraphic themes;
And ſhew to men, the dignity of man;
Leſt I blaſpheme my ſubject with my ſong.
Shall *Pagan* pages glow celeſtial flame,
And *Chriſtian* languiſh? On our hearts, not heads,
Falls the foul infamy: my heart! awake.
What can awake thee, unwak'd by *this*,
"Expended Deity on hnman weal?"
Feel the *great truths*, which burſt the ten-fold night
Of *Heathen* error, with a golden flood
Of endleſs day: to feel, is to be fir'd;
And to believe, *Lorenzo!* is to feel.
Thou moſt indulgent, moſt tremendous Power!
Still more tremendous, for thy wond'rous love!
That arms, with awe more awful, thy commands;
And foul tranſgreſſion dips in ſevenfold night;
How our hearts tremble at thy love immenſe!
In love immenſe, inviolably juſt!
Thou, rather than thy *juſtice* ſhould be ſtain'd,
Didſt ſtain the *croſs*; and, work of wonders, far
The greateſt, that thy deareſt far might bleed.
Bold thought! ſhall I dare ſpeak it? or repreſs?
Should man more *execrate*, or *boaſt*, the guilt [flam'd?
Which rous'd ſuch vengeance? which ſuch love in-
O'er guilt (how mountainous! with outſtretch'd arms,
Stern *juſtice*, and ſoft-ſmilling *love*, embrace,
Supporting, in full majeſty, thy throne,
When ſeem'd its majeſty to need ſupport,
Or *that*, or *man*, inevitably loſt.

What, but the *fathomleſs* of thought divine,
Could labour ſuch expedient from deſpair,
And reſcue *both?* both reſcue! both exalt!
O how are both exalted by the *deed!*
The wond'rous deed! or ſhall I call it *more?*
A wonder, in Omnipotence itſelf!
A myſtery no leſs to gods than men!
Not *thus*, our infidels th' *Eternal* draw,
A God all o'er, conſummate, abſolute,
Full-orb'd, in his whole round of rays complete:
They ſet at odds Heaven's jarring attributes;
And, with one excellence, another wound;
Maim Heav'n's perfection, break its equal beams,
Bid *mercy* triumph over——God himſelf,
Undeify'd by their opprobrious praiſe:
A God *all* mercy, is a God unjuſt.
Ye brainleſs wits! ye baptiz'd infidels!
Ye worſe for mending! waſh'd to fouler ſtains!
The ranſom was paid down; the fund of heaven,
Heav'n's inexhauſtible, exhauſted fund,
Amazing, and amaz'd, pour'd forth the price,
All price beyond: tho' curious to compute,
Archangels fail'd to caſt the mighty ſum:
Its value vaſt, ungraſp'd by minds *create*,
For ever hides, and glows in the *Supreme*.
And was the ranſom paid? it was: and paid
(What can exalt the bounty more!) for *you*.
The ſun beheld it——No, the ſhocking ſcene
Drove back his chariot: *midnight* veil'd his face;
Not ſuch as *this;* not ſuch as nature makes:
A *midnight* nature ſhudder'd to behold;
A *midnight* new! a dread eclipſe (without

Oppoſing ſpheres) from her Creator's frown!
Sun! didſt thou fly thy Maker's pain? or ſtart
At that enormous load of human guilt,
Which bow'd his bleſſed head; o'erwhelm'd his croſs;
Made groan the centre; burſt earth's marble womb,
With pangs, ſtrange pangs! deliver'd of her dead?
Hell howl'd; and Heav'n that hour let fall a tear;
Heav'n wept, that men might ſmile! Heav'n bled,
that man
Might never die!———
And is devotion virtue? 'Tis *compell'd:*
What heart of ſtone, but glows at thoughts like theſe?
Such contemplations mount us; and ſhould mount
The mind ſtill higher; nor ever glance on man,
Unraptur'd, uninflam'd.—Where roll my thoughts
To reſt from wonders? other wonders riſe;
And ſtrike where-e'er they roll: my ſoul is caught:
Heav'n's ſov'reign bleſſings, cluſt'ring from the croſs,
Ruſh on her, in a throng, and cloſe her round,
The pris'ner of amaze!—In his bleſt *life*,
I ſee the *path*, and in his *death*, the *price*,
And in his great *aſcent*, the *proof* ſupreme
Of immortality ——And did he riſe?
Hear, O ye nations! hear it, O ye dead!
He roſe! he roſe! he burſt the bars of death.
Lift up your heads, ye everlaſting gates!
And give the King of glory to come in.
Who is the King or glory? He who left
His throne of glory, for the pang of death.
Lift up your heads, ye everlaſting gates!
And give the King of glory to come in.
Who is the King of glory? He who ſlew

The rav'nous foe, that gorg'd all human race!
The King of glory, He, whose glory fill'd
Heav'n with amazement at his love to man;
And with divine complacency beheld
Pow'rs most illumin'd, wilder'd in the theme.
The theme, the joy, how then shall *man* sustain
Oh the burst gates! crush'd sting! demolish'd throne
Last gasp of vanquish'd death. Shout earth and heav
This *sum of good* to man. *Whose* nature, then,
Took wing, and mounted with him from the tomb
Then, then, I rose; then first *humanity*
Triumphant past the chrystal ports of light,
(Stupendous guest!) and seiz'd eternal youth;
Seiz'd in *our* name. E'er since, 'tis blasphemous
To call man mortal. Man's mortality
Was then transferr'd to death; and heav'n's duratio
Unalienably seal'd to this frail frame,
This child of dust——Man, all-immortal! hail;
Hail, Heav'n! all-lavish of strange gifts to man!
Thine all the glory: man's the boundless bliss.
Where am I rapt by this triumphant theme,
On Christian joy's exulting wing, above
Th' *Aonian* mount?—Alas, small cause for joy!
What if to pain, immortal? If extent
Of being, to preclude a close of woe!
Where, then, my boast of immortality?
I boast it still, tho' cover'd o'er with guilt:
For guilt, not innocence, his life he pour'd.
'Tis guilt alone can justify his death;
Nor that, unless his death can justify
Relenting guilt in Heav'n's indulgent sight.
If, sick of folly, I relent; he writes.

My name in heav'n, with that inverted ſpear
(A ſpear deep-dipt in blood!) which pierc'd his ſide,
And open'd there a font for all mankind
Who ſtrive, who combat crimes, to drink, and live:
This, only *this*, ſubdues the *fear of death*.
And what is *this*?—Survey the wondrous cure:
And at each ſtep, let higher wonder riſe!
"Pardon for infinite offence! and pardon
"Thro' means, that ſpeaks its value infinite!
"A pardon bought with blood! with blood divine!
"With blood divine of Him I made my foe!
"Perſiſted to provoke! tho' woo'd, and aw'd,
"Bleſt, and chaſtiz'd, a flagrant rebel ſtill!
"A rebel 'midſt the thunders of his throne!
"Nor I alone, a rebel univerſe!
"My ſpecies up in arms! not one exempt!
"Yet for the fouleſt of the foul, he dies.
"Moſt joy'd, for the redeem'd from deepeſt guilt!
"As if our race were held of higheſt rank;
"And Godhead dearer, as more kind to man!"
Bound, every heart! and every boſom, burn!
Oh what a ſcale of miracles is here!
Its loweſt round, high-planted on the ſkies;
Its tow'ring ſummit loſt beyond the thought
Of man or angel! Oh that I could climb
The wonderful aſcent, with equal praiſe!
Praiſe! flow for ever, (if aſtoniſhment
Will give thee leave) my praiſe! for ever flow;
Praiſe ardent, cordial, conſtant, to high Heav'n
More fragrant, than *Arabia* ſacrific'd,
And all her ſpicy mountains in a flame.
So dear, ſo due to Heav'n, ſhall *praiſe* deſcend

With her ſoft plume, (from *plauſive* angels wing
Firſt pluck'd by man) to tickle mortal ears,
Thus diving in the pockets of the great?
Is *praiſe* the perquiſite of ev'ry paw,
Tho' black as hell, that grapples well for gold!
Oh love of gold, thou meaneſt of amours!
Shall *praiſe* her odours waſte on *virtue*'s dead,
Embalm the baſe, perfume the ſtench of guilt,
Earn dirty bread by waſhing *Ethiops* fair,
Removing filth, or ſinking it from ſight,
A ſcavenger in *ſcenes*, where *vacant* poſts,
Like gibbets yet untenanted, expect
Their future ornaments? From courts and thron
Return, apoſtate *praiſe*! thou vagabond!
Thou proſtitute! to thy firſt love return,
Thy firſt, thy greateſt, once unrival'd theme.
There flow redundant; like *Meander* flow,
Back to thy fountain; to that Parent Power,
Who gives the tongue to ſound, the thought to ſo
The ſoul to *be*. Men homage pay to men,
Thoughtleſs beneath whoſe dreadful eye they bo
In mutual awe profound, of clay to clay,
Of guilt to guilt, and turn their backs on thee,
Great Sire! whom thrones celeſtial ceaſeleſs ſing
To proſtrate angels, an amazing ſcene
O the preſumption of man's awe for man!—
Man's Author! End! Reſtorer! Law! and Judg
Thine all; day thine, and thine this gloom of nig
With all her wealth, with all her radiant worlds!
What night eternal, but a frown from thee?
What heav'n's meridian glory, but thy ſmile?
And ſhall not *praiſe* be thine! not human prai

hile heav'n's high hoſt on *hallelujah*'s live?
O may I breathe no longer, than I breathe
y ſoul in praiſe to him, who gave my ſoul,
nd all her infinite of proſpect fair;
t thro' the ſhades of hell, great *love!* by thee,
h moſt adorable! moſt unador'd!
here ſhall that praiſe begin, which ne'er ſhould end?
here-e'er I turn, what claim on all applauſe!
ow is *night*'s ſable mantle labour'd o'er,
ow richly wrought, with attributes divine!
hat *wiſdom* ſhines! what *love*! this midnight pomp,
is gorgeous arch, with golden worlds inlaid!
ilt with divine ambition! Nought to thee;
r others this profuſion: thou, apart,
ove, beyond! Oh tell me, mighty Mind!
here art thou? ſhall I dive into the *deep?*
ll to the *ſun*, or aſk the roaring *winds*,
r the Creator? ſhall I queſtion loud
e *thunder*, if in that th' Almighty dwells?
holds he furious *ſtorms* in ſtraighten'd reins,
nd bids fierce *whirlwinds* wheel his rapid carr?
What mean theſe queſtions?—trembling I retract;
y proſtrate ſoul adores the-*preſent* GOD:
iſe I a diſtant Deity? he tunes
y voice (if tun'd); the nerve, that writes, ſuſtains:
rap'd in his being, I reſound his praiſe:
t tho' paſt *all* diffus'd, without a ſhore,
s eſſence; *local* is his throne (as meet)
gather the diſperſt (as ſtandards call
e liſted from afar); to fix a point,
central point, collective of his ſons,
ce *finite* ev'ry nature, but his own.

The nameleſs *he*, whoſe nod is *nature*'s birth;
And *nature*'s ſhield, the ſhadow of his hand;
Her diſſolution, his ſuſpended ſmile!
The great *Firſt-Laſt!* pavilion'd high he ſits
In darkneſs, from exceſſive ſplendor, borne,
By gods unſeen, unleſs thro' luſtre loſt.
His glory, to created glory, bright,
As that to central horrors; he looks down
On all that ſoars, and ſpans immenſity.
Tho' *night* unnumber'd worlds unfolds to view
Boundleſs creation! what art thou? a beam,
A mere effluvium of his majeſty:
And ſhall an atom of this atom-world
Mutter, in duſt and ſin, the theme of Heaven?
Down to the centre ſhould I ſend my thought
Thro' beds of glitt'ring ore, and glowing gems,
Their beggar'd blaze wants luſtre for my lay;
Goes out in darkneſs: if, on tow'ring wing,
I ſend it thro' the boundleſs vault of ſtars!
(The ſtars, tho' rich, what droſs their gold to the
Great! good! wiſe! wonderful! eternal King!)
If to thoſe *conſcious ſtars* thy throne around,
Praiſe ever-pouring, and imbibing bliſs;
And aſk their ſtrain; they want it, *more* they wa
Poor their abundance, humble their ſublime,
Languid their energy, their ardor cold,
Indebted ſtill, their higheſt rapture burns
Short of its mark, defective, tho' divine.
Still more—This theme is man's, and man's alo
Their vaſt appointments reach it not: they ſee
On earth a bounty not indulg'd on high;
And *downward* look for Heav'n's ſuperior praiſe

First born of Ether! high in fields of light!
View man, to see the glory of your God!
Could angels envy, they had envy'd *here*;
And some *did* envy; and the rest, tho' gods,
Yet still Gods *unredeem'd* (there triumphs man,
Tempted to weigh the dust against the skies)
They less would *feel*, tho' more adorn, my theme.
They sung *creation* (for in that they shar'd)
How rose in melody, that child of love!
Creation's great superior, man! is thine;
Thine is *redemption*; they just gave the key:
'Tis thine to raise, and eternize the song;
Tho' human, yet divine; for should not *this*
Raise man o'er man, and kindle seraphs *here!*
Redemption! 'twas creation more sublime;
Redemption! 'twas the labour of the skies;
Far *more* than labour——it was *death* in heav'n.
A truth so strange! 'twere bold to think it true;
If not far bolder still to disbelieve.
Here pause, and ponder: was there death in heav'n?
What then on earth? on earth, which struck the blow?
Who struck it? who—O how is *man* enlarg'd,
Seen thro' this medium! how the pigmy tow'rs!
How counterpois'd, his origin from dust!
How counterpois'd, to dust his sad return!
How voided his vast distance from the skies!
How near he presses on the seraph's wing!
Which is the seraph? which the born of clay!
How this demonstrates, thro' the thickest cloud
Of guilt, and clay condens'd, the son of Heav'n!
The *double* sun; the made, and the re-made!
And shall heav'n's double property be lost?

Man's double madneſs only can deſtroy.
To man the bleeding croſs has promis'd *all*;
The bleeding croſs has ſworn eternal grace;
Who gave his life, what grace ſhall he deny?
O ye! who, from this *rock of ages*, leap,
Apoſtates, plunging headlong in the deep!
What cordial joy, what conſolation ſtrong,
Whatever winds ariſe, or billows roll,
Our int'reſt in the Maſter of the ſtorm!
Cling *there*, and in wreck'd nature's ruins *ſmile*;
While vile apoſtates *tremble* in a calm.
Man! know thyſelf. All wiſdom centers there:
To none man ſeems ignoble, but to man;
Angels that grandeur men o'erlook, admire:
How long ſhall human nature be *their* book,
Degen'rate mortal! and *unread* by thee!
The beam dim *reaſon* ſheds ſhews wonders there;
What high contents! illuſtrious faculties!
But the grand *comment*, which diſplays at full
Our human height, ſcarce ſever'd from divine,
By heav'n compos'd, was publiſh'd on the *croſs*.
Who looks on That, and ſees not in himſelf
An awful ſtranger, a terreſtrial god?
A glorious partner with the Deity
In that high attribute, immortal life!
If a God bleeds, he bleeds not for a worm:
I gaze, and as I gaze, my mounting ſoul
Catches ſtrange fire, eternity! at thee;
And drops the world—or rather, more enjoys:
How chang'd the face of nature! how improv'd!
What ſeem'd a chaos, ſhines a glorious world,
Or, what a world, an *Eden*; heighten'd all:

It is another ſcene! another ſelf!
And ſtill another, as time rolls along;
And that a *ſelf* far more illuſtrious ſtill.
Beyond long ages yet roll'd up in ſhades
Unpierc'd by bold conjecture's keeneſt ray,
What evolutions of ſurpriſing fate!
How nature opens, and receives my ſoul
In boundleſs walks of raptur'd thought! where gods
Encounter, and embrace me; what new births
Of ſtrange adventures, foreign to the ſun,
Where what now charms, perhaps, whate'er exiſts,
Old *time*, and fair *creation*, are forgot!
I this extravagant? Of man we form
Extravagant? conception, to be juſt:
Conception unconfin'd wants wings to reach him:
Beyond its reach, the Godhead only, more.
He the great Father! kindled at one flame
The world of rationals; one ſpirit pour'd
From ſpirit's awful fountain; pour'd himſelf
Thro' all their ſouls! but not in equal ſtream,
Profuſe, or frugal, of th' inſpiring God,
As his wiſe plan demanded: and when paſt
Their various trials, in their various ſpheres,
If they *continue* rational, as made,
Reſorbs them all into himſelf again;
His throne their centre, and his ſmile their crown.
Why doubt we, then, the *glorious truth* to ſing,
Tho' yet *unſung*, as deem'd perhaps too bold?
Angels are men of a ſuperior kind:
Angels are men in lighter habit clad,
High o'er celeſtial mountains wing'd in flight;
And men are angels, loaded for an hour,

Who wade this miry vale, and climb with pain,
And ſlipp'ry ſtep, the bottom of the ſteep.
Angels their failings, mortals have their praiſe:
While *here*, of corps ethereal, ſuch enroll'd,
And ſummon'd to the *glorious ſtandard* ſoon,
Which flames eternal crimſon through the ſkies.
Nor are our *brothers* thoughtleſs of their kin,
Yet abſent; but not abſent from their love.
Michael has fought our battles; *Raphael* ſung
Our triumphs; *Gabriel* on our errands flown,
Sent by the SOV'REIGN: and are theſe, O man!
Thy friends, thy warm allies? and thou (ſhame burn
The cheek to cinder!) rival to the brute?
Religion's all. Deſcending from the ſkies
To wretched man, the goddeſs in her left
Holds out *this* world, and, in her right, the *next*;
Religion! the ſole voucher man is man;
Supporter ſole of man above himſelf;
Ev'n in this night of frailty, change, and death,
She gives the ſoul a ſoul that acts a god.
Religion! providence! an after-ſtate!
Here is firm footing; *here* is ſolid rock:
This can ſupport us; all is ſea beſides;
Sinks under us; beſtorms, and then devours.
His hand the good man faſtens on the ſkies,
And bids earth roll, nor feels her idle whirl.
As when a wretch, from thick, plluted air,
Darkneſs, and ſtench, and ſuffocating damps,
And dungeon horrors, by kind fate diſcharg'd,
Climbs ſome fair eminence, where ether pure
Surrounds him, and *Elyſian* proſpects riſe,
His heart exults, his ſpirits caſt their load;

As if new-born, he triumphs in the change;
So joys the ſoul, when from inglorious aims,
And ſordid ſweets, from feculence and froth
Of ties terreſtrial, ſet at large, ſhe mounts
To *reaſon*'s region, her own element,
Breathes hopes immortal, and affects the ſkies.
Religion! thou the ſoul of happineſs:
And, groaning *Calvary*, of thee! *there* ſhine
The nobleſt truths: *there* ſtrongeſt motives ſting:
There, ſacred violence aſſaults the ſoul;
There, nothing but *compulſion* is forborn.
Can love allure us! or can terror awe?
He weeps!—the falling drop puts out the ſun;
He ſighs!—the ſigh earth's deep foundation ſhakes.
If, in his love, ſo terrible, what then
His wrath inflam'd? his tenderneſs on fire?
Like ſoft, ſmooth oil, out-blazing other fires?
Can pray'r, can praiſe avert it?—Thou, my *all!*
My theme; my inſpiration! and my crown!
My ſtrength in age! my riſe in low eſtate!
My ſoul's ambition, pleaſure, wealth! my world!
My light in darkneſs! and my life in death!
My boaſt thro' time! bliſs thro' eternity!
Eternity, too ſhort to ſpeak thy praiſe!
Or fathom thy profound of love to man!
To man of men the meaneſt, ev'n to me!
My ſacrifice! my God!—what things are theſe!
What then art Thou? by what name ſhall I call Thee?
Knew I the name devout archangels uſe,
Devout archangels ſhould the name enjoy,
By me unrival'd; thouſands more ſublime,
None half ſo dear, as that, which, tho' unſpoke,

Still glows at heart: O how omnipotence
Is loſt in love! thou great PHILANTROPIST!
Father of angels! but the friend of man!
Like *Jacob*, fondeſt of the younger born!
Thou, who didſt ſave him, ſnatch the ſmoking brand
From out the flames, and quench it in thy blood!
How art thou pleas'd, by bounty to diſtreſs!
To make us groan beneath our gratitude,
Too big for birth! to favour, and confound;
To challenge, and to diſtance, all return!
Of laviſh love, ſtupendous heights to ſoar,
And leave praiſe panting in the diſtant vale!
Thy right too great defrauds thee of thy due;
And ſacrilegious our ſublimeſt ſong.
But ſince the naked *will* obtains thy ſmile,
Beneath this monument of praiſe *unpaid*,
And future life ſymphonious to my ſtrain,
(That nobleſt hymn to heav'n!) for ever ly
Intomb'd my *fear of death!* and ev'ry fear,
The dread of ev'ry evil, but thy frown.
Whom ſee I yonder, ſo demurely ſmile?
Laughter a labour, and might break their reſt.
Ye quieteſts, in homage to the ſkies!
Serene! of ſoft addreſs! who mildly make
An unobtruſive tender of your hearts,
Abhorring violence! who *halt* indeed;
But, for the bleſſing, *wreſtle* not with Heaven?
Think you my ſong too turbulent; too warm?
Are *paſſions*, then, the pagans of the ſoul?
Reaſon alone baptiz'd? alone *ordain'd*
To touch things ſacred? Oh for warmer ſtill!
Guilt chills my zeal, and age benumbs my powers;

Oh for an humbler heart, and prouder ſong!
THOU, my much injur'd theme! with that ſoft eye,
Which melted o'er doom'd *Salem*, deign to look
Compaſſion to the coldneſs of my breaſt;
And pardon to the winter in my ſtrain.
Oh ye cold-hearted, frozen, formaliſts!
On ſuch a theme, 'tis impious to be calm;
Paſſion is reaſon, tranſport temper, *here*.
Shall Heav'n, which gave us ardor, and has ſhewn
Her own for man ſo ſtrongly, not diſdain
What ſmooth emollients in theology
Recumbent virtue's downy doctors preach,
That proſe of piety, a lukewarm praiſe?
Riſe odours ſweet from incenſe *uninflam'd?*
Devotion, when lukewarm, is undevout;
But when it glows, its heat is ſtruck to heaven,
To human hearts her golden harps are ſtrung;
High heav'n's *orcheſtra* chaunts *Amen* to man.
Hear I, or dream I hear, their diſtrant ſtrain,
Sweet to the ſoul, and taſting ſtrong of heav'n,
Soft-waſted on celeſtial *pity*'s plume,
Thro' the vaſt ſpaces of the univerſe,
To chear me in this melancholy gloom?
Oh when will *death* (now ſtingleſs) like a friend,
Admit me of their choir? Oh when will *death*,
This mould'ring, old partition-wall throw down?
Give beings, one in nature, one abode?
Oh death divine! that giv'ſt us to the ſkies!
Great *future!* glorious patron of the *paſt*,
And *preſent!* when ſhall I thy ſhrine adore?
From nature's *continent*, immenſely wide,
Immenſely bleſt, this little *iſle of life*,

This dark, incarcerating *colony*,
Divides us. Happy day! that breaks our chain;
That manumits; that calls from exile home;
That leads to nature's great *metropolis*,
And re-admits us, thro' the *guardian* hand
Of elder brothers, to our *Father*'s throne;
Who hears our Advocate, and, thro' his wounds
Beholding man, allows *that* tender name.
'Tis this makes *Chriſtian triumph* a command:
'Tis this makes joy a *duty* to the wiſe;
'Tis impious in a good man to be ſad.

See thou *Lorenzo!* where hangs all our hope?
Touch'd by the *croſs*, we live; or, *more* than die;
That *touch* which touch'd not angels; more divine
Than that which touch'd confuſion into form,
And darkneſs into glory; partial *touch!*
Ineffably pre-eminent regard!
Sacred to man, and ſov'reign thro' the whole
Long golden chain of miracles, which hangs
From heav'n thro' all duration, and ſupports
In one illuſtrious, and amazing plan,
Thy welfare, *nature!* and thy God's renown;
That touch, with charm celeſtial, heals the ſoul
Diſeas'd, drives pain from guilt, lights life in death,
Turns earth to heav'n, to heav'nly thrones transforms
The ghaſtly ruins of the mould'ring tomb.

Doſt aſk me when? When HE who dy'd returns;
Returns, how chang'd! where then the man of woe?
In glory's terrors all the godhead burns;
And all his courts, exhauſted by the tide
Of deities triumphant in his train,
Leave a ſtupendous ſolitude in heaven;

Repleniſh'd ſoon; repleniſh'd with increaſe
Of pomp, and multitude; a radiant band
Of angels new; of angels from the *tomb*.
Is this by fancy thrown remote? and riſe
Dark doubts between the promiſe, and event?
I ſend thee not to volumes for thy cure;
Read nature; nature is a friend to truth;
Nature is *Chriſtian;* preaches to mankind;
And bids dead matter aid us in our creed.
Haſt thou ne'er ſeen the comet's flaming flight?
Th'illuſtrious ſtranger paſſing, terror ſheds
On gazing nations, from his fiery train
Of length enormous; takes his ample round
Thro' depths of ether; coaſts unnumber'd worlds,
Of more than ſolar glory; doubles wide
Heav'n's mighty cape; and then reviſits earth,
From the long travel of a thouſand years.
Thus, at the deſtin'd period, ſhall return
He, once on earth, who bids the comet blaze;
And with him *all* our triumph o'er the tomb.
Nature is dumb on this important point;
Or hope precarious in low whiſper breathes;
Faith ſpeaks aloud, diſtinct; ev'n *adders* hear,
But turn, and dart into the dark again.
Faith builds a bridge acroſs the gulph of death,
To break the ſhock blind *nature* cannot ſhun,
And lands thought ſmoothly on the farther ſhore.
Death's terror is the mountain *faith* removes;
That mountain-barrier between man and peace.
'Tis *faith* diſarms deſtruction; and abſolves
From ev'ry clamorous charge, the guiltleſs tomb.
Why diſbelieve? *Lorenzo!*——"*Reaſon* bids,

"All-ſacred reaſon."——Hold her ſacred ſtill;
Nor ſhalt thou want a rival in thy flame:
All-ſacred *reaſon!* ſource, and ſoul, of all
Demanding praiſe, on earth, or earth above!
My heart is thine: deep in its inmoſt folds,
Live thou with life; live dearer of the two.
Wear I the bleſſed croſs, by fortune ſtamp'd
On paſſive nature, before thought was born?
My birth's blind bigot! fir'd with *local* zeal!
No; *reaſon* rebaptiz'd me when adult;
Weigh'd true and falſe in her impartial ſcale;
My heart became the convert of my head;
And made that choice, which once was but my fa
"On argument alone my faith is built:"
Reaſon purſu'd is *faith*; and, unpurſu'd,
Where proof invites, 'tis reaſon, then, no more:
And ſuch our *proof*, that, or our *faith* is *right*,
Or *reaſon* lies, and Heav'n deſign'd it *wrong*:
Abſolve we this? what, then, is blaſphemy?

Fond as we are, and juſtly fond of *faith*,
Reaſon, we grant, demands our firſt regard;
The mother honour'd, as the daughter dear;
Reaſon the root, fair *faith* is but the flow'r;
The fading flow'r ſhall die; but *reaſon* lives
Immortal, as her father in the ſkies.
When *faith* is virtue, *reaſon* makes it ſo.
Wrong not the Chriſtian; think not reaſon your
'Tis *reaſon* our great *maſter* holds ſo dear;
'Tis *reaſon*'s injur'd rights his wrath reſents;
'Tis *reaſon*'s voice obey'd his glories crown;
To give loſt *reaſon* life, he pour'd his own:
Believe, and ſhew the reaſon of a man;

Believe, and taſte the pleaſure of a God;
Believe, and look with triumph on the tomb:
Thro' *reaſon's* wounds alone, thy *faith* can die;
Which dying, tenfold terror gives to death,
And dips in *venom* his twice-mortal ſting.
Learn hence what honours, what loud *paeans* due
To thoſe, who puſh our *antidote* aſide;
Thoſe boaſted friends to *reaſon*, and to *man*,
Whoſe fatal love ſtabs ev'ry joy, and leaves
Death's terror heighten'd, gnawing on his heart.
Theſe pompous ſons of *reaſon* idoliz'd,
And vilify'd at once; of *reaſon* dead,
Then deify'd, as monarchs were of old,
What conduct plants proud laurels on their brow?
While *love of truth* thro' all their camp reſounds,
They draw *pride*'s curtain o'er the noon-tide ray;
Spike up their inch of reaſon on the point
Of philoſophic wit, *call'd* Argument;
And then, exulting in their taper, cry,
"Behold the ſun:" and, *Indian*-like, adore.
Talk they of *morals?* O thou bleeding Love!
Thou Maker of *new* morals to mankind!
The *grand* morality is love of Thee.
As wiſe as *Socrates*, if ſuch they were,
(Nor will they bate of that ſublime renown)
As wiſe as Socrates, might juſtly ſtand
The definition of a modern fool.
A CHRISTIAN is the higheſt ſtile of man.
And is there, who the bleſſed croſs wipes off
As a foul blot, from his diſhonour'd brow?
If angels tremble, 'tis at ſuch a ſight:
The wretch they quit, deſponding of their charge,

More ſtruck with grief or wonder, who can tell?
Ye ſold to ſenſe! ye citizens of earth!
(For ſuch alone the Chriſtian banner fly)
Know ye how wiſe your choice, how great your gain?
Behold the picture of earth's happieſt man:
"He calls his wiſh, it comes; he ſends it back,
"And ſays, he call'd another; that arrives,
"Meets the ſame welcome; yet he ſtill calls on;
"Till *one* calls him, who varies not his call,
"But holds him faſt, in chains of darkneſs bound,
"Till nature dies, and judgement ſets him free;
"A freedom, far leſs welcome than his chain."
But grant man happy; grant him happy long;
Add to life's higheſt prize her lateſt hour;
That hour ſo late, is nimble in approach,
That, like a poſt, comes on in full career;
How ſwift the ſhuttle flies that weaves thy ſhroud!
Where is the fable of thy former years?
Thrown down the gulph of time; as far from thee
As they had ne'er been thine; the day in hand,
Like a bird ſtruggling to get looſe, is going;
Scarce now poſſeſs'd, ſo ſuddenly 'tis gone;
And each ſwift moment fled, is death advanc'd
By ſtrides as ſwift: eternity is all;
And whoſe eternity? who triumphs there?
Bathing for ever in the font of bliſs!
For ever baſking in the Deity!
Lorenzo! who?——Thy conſcience ſhall reply.
O give it leave to ſpeak; 'twill ſpeak ere long,
Thy leave unaſk'd: *Lorenzo!* hear it now,
While uſeful its advice, its accent mild.
By the great edict, the divine decree,

Truth is depoſited with man's *laſt hour;*
An honeſt hour, and faithful to her truſt;
Truth, eldeſt daughter of the Deity;
Truth, of his council, when he made the worlds;
Nor leſs, when he ſhall judge the worlds he made;
Tho' ſilent long, and ſleeping ne'er ſo ſound,
Smother'd with errors, and oppreſt with toys,
That heav'n-commiſſion'd hour no ſooner calls,
But from her cavern in the ſoul's abyſs,
Like him they fable under *Ætna* whelm'd,
The goddeſs burſts in thunder, and in flame;
Loudly convinces, and ſeverely pains.
Dark *demons* I diſcharge, and *hydra*-ſtings;
The keen vibration of bright *truth*——is hell:
Juſt definition! tho' by ſchools untaught.
Ye deaf to truth! peruſe this parſon'd page,
And truſt, for once, a prophet, and a prieſt;
"Men may *live* fools, but fools they cannot *die*."

NIGHT THE FIFTH.

THE

RELAPSE.

HUMBLY INSCRIBED

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

The EARL of *LITCHFIELD.*

THE
RELAPSE.

NIGHT THE FIFTH.

LORENZO! to recriminate is juſt.
Fondneſs for fame is avarice of air.
I grant the man is vain, who writes for praiſe.
Praiſe no man e'er deſerv'd, who ſought no more.
As juſt thy *ſecond charge.* I grant the *muſe*
Has often bluſh'd at her degen'rate ſons,
Retain'd by *ſenſe* to plead her filthy cauſe;
To raiſe the low, to magnify the mean,
And ſubtilize the groſs into refin'd:
As if to magic numbers' pow'rful charm
'Twas giv'n, to make a *civet* of their ſong
Obſcene, and ſweeten ordure to perfume.
Wit, a true pagan, deifies the brute,
And lifts our ſwine enjoyments from the mire.
The fact notorious, nor obſcure the cauſe.
We wear the chains of *pleaſure* and of *pride.*
Theſe ſhare the man; and theſe diſtract him too;
Draw diff'rent ways, and claſh in their commands.
Pride, like an eagle, builds among the ſtars;
But *pleaſure*, lark-like, neſts upon the ground.
Joys ſhar'd by brute-creation, *pride* reſents;
Pleaſure embraces: man would *both* enjoy,
And both *at once*: a point too hard to gain!
But what can't wit, when ſtung by ſtrong deſire?
Wit dares attempt this arduous enterprize.

Since joys of *ſenſe* can't riſe to *reaſon*'s taſte;
In ſubtle *ſophiſtry*'s laborious forge,
Wit hammers out a reaſon *new*, that ſtoops
To ſordid ſcenes, and meets them with applauſe.
Wit calls the *graces* the chaſte zone to looſe;
Nor leſs than a *plump god* to fill the bowl.
A thouſand phantoms, and a thouſand ſpells,
A thouſand opiates ſcatters, to delude,
To faſcinate, inebriate, lay aſleep,
And the fool'd mind delightfully confound. [more;
Thus that which ſhock'd the *judgement*, ſhocks no
That which gave *pride* offence, no more offends.
Pleaſure and *pride*, by nature mortal foes,
At war eternal, which in man ſhall reign,
By *wit*'s addreſs, patch up a fatal peace,
And hand in hand lead on the rank debauch,
From rank, refin'd to delicate and gay.
Art, curſed art! wipes off th' indebted bluſh
From nature's cheek, and bronzes ev'ry ſhame.
Man ſmiles in ruin, glories in his guilt,
And infamy ſtands candidate for praiſe.

All writ by man in favour of the ſoul,
Theſe *ſenſual ethics* far, in bulk, tranſcend.
The flow'rs of eloquence, profuſely pour'd
O'er ſpotted vice, fill half the letter'd world.
Can pow'rs of genius exorciſe their page,
And conſecrate enormities with ſong?

But let not theſe inexpiable ſtrains
Condemn the muſe that knows her dignity;
Nor meanly ſtops at *time*, but holds the world
As 'tis, in nature's ample field a point,
A point in her eſteem; from whence to ſtart,

And run the round of univerſal ſpace,
To viſit being univerſal there,
And Being's Source, that utmoſt flight of mind!
Yet, ſpite of this ſo vaſt circumference,
Well knows, but what is *moral*, nought is *great*.
Sing *ſyrens* only? do not angels ſing?
There is in *poeſy* a decent pride,
Which well becomes her when ſhe ſpeaks to *proſe*,
Her younger ſiſter; haply, not more wiſe.
Think'ſt thou, *Lorenzo!* to find paſtimes here!
No guilty paſſion blown into a flame,
No foible flatter'd, dignity diſgrac'd,
No fairy field of fiction all on flower,
No rainbow colours, *here*, or ſilken tale;
But ſolemn *counſels*, images of awe,
Truths, which eternity lets fall on man
With double weight, thro' theſe revolving ſpheres,
This death-deep ſilence, and incumbent ſhade:
Thoughts, ſuch as ſhall reviſit your laſt hour?
Viſit uncall'd, and live when life expires;
And thy dark pencil, *midnight!* darker ſtill
In melancholy dipt, embrowns the whole.
Yet this, ev'n *this*, my laughter-loving friends!
Lorenzo! and thy brothers of the ſmile!
If, what imports you moſt, can moſt engage,
Shall ſteal your ear, and chain you to my ſong.
Or if you fail me, know, the wiſe ſhall taſte
The truths I ſing; the truths I ſing ſhall feel;
And, feeling, give aſſent; and their aſſent
Is ample recompence; is more than praiſe.
But chiefly thine, O *Litchfield!* nor miſtake;
Think not unintroduc'd I forc'd my way;

Narciſſa, not unknown, not unally'd,
By virtue, or by blood, illuſtrious youth!
To thee, from blooming *amaranthine* bowers,
Where all the language *harmony*, deſcends
Uncall'd, and aſks admittance for the muſe:
A muſe that will not pain thee with thy praiſe;
Thy praiſe ſhe drops, by *nobler* ſtill inſpir'd.
O thou! bleſt Spirit! *whether* the ſupreme,
Great antemundane Father! in whoſe breaſt
Embryo-creation, unborn being, dwelt,
And all its various revolutions roll'd
Preſent, tho' future; prior to themſelves;
Whoſe breath can blow it into nought again;
Or, from his throne ſome delegated pow'r,
Who, ſtudious of our peace, doſt turn the thought
From vain and vile, to ſolid and ſublime!
Unſeen thou lead'ſt me to delicious draughts
Of inſpiration, from a purer ſtream,
And fuller of the God, than that which burſt
From fam'd *Caſtalia*: nor is yet allay'd
My ſacred thirſt; though long my ſoul has rang'd
Through pleaſing paths of *moral*, and *divine*,
By Thee ſuſtain'd, and lighted by the *ſtars*.
By *them* beſt lighted are the paths of *thought*;
Nights are their *days*, their moſt illumin'd hours.
By *day*, the ſoul, o'erborne by life's carèer,
Stunn'd by the din, and giddy with the glare,
Reels far from reaſon, joſtled by the throng.
By *day*, the ſoul is paſſive, all her thoughts
Impos'd, precarious, broken, ere mature.
By *night*, from objects free, from paſſions cool,
Thoughts uncontroul'd, and unimpreſs'd, the births

Of pure election, arbitrary range,
Not to the limits of *one* world confin'd;
But from *ethereal* travels light on *earth*,
As voyagers drop anchor, for repoſe.
Let *Indians*, and the gay, like *Indians*, fond
Of feather'd fopperies, the ſun adore:
Darkneſs has more divinity for me;
It ſtrikes thought inward; it drives back the ſoul
To ſettle on herſelf, our point ſupreme!
There lyes our theatre; there ſits our judge.
Darkneſs the curtain drops o'er life's dull ſcene;
Tis the kind hand of Providence ſtretch'd out
Twixt man and vanity; 'tis *reaſon*'s reign,
And *virtue*'s too; theſe tutelary ſhades
Are man's *aſylum* from the tainted throng.
Night is the good man's *friend*, and *guardian* too;
It no leſs *reſcues* virtue, than *inſpires*.
Virtue, for ever frail, as fair, below,
Her tender nature ſuffers in the croud,
Nor touches on the world, without a ſtain:
The world's infectious; few bring back at eve,
Immaculate, the manners of the morn.
Something we *thought*, is blotted; we *reſolv'd*,
Is ſhaken; we *renounc'd*, returns again.
Each *ſalutation* may ſlide in a ſin
Unthought before, or fix a former flaw.
Nor is it ſtrange: *light*, *motion*, *concourſe*, *noiſe*,
All, ſcatter us abroad; thought outward-bound,
Neglectful of our home-affairs, flies off
In fume and diſſipation, quits her charge,
And leaves the breaſt unguarded to the foe.
Preſent example gets within our guard,

And acts with *double* force, by few repell'd.
Ambition fires ambition; *love of gain*
Strikes, like a peſtilence, from breaſt to breaſt;
Riot, *pride*, *perfidy*, blue vapours breathe;
And *inhumanity* is caught from man;
From ſmiling man. A ſlight, a ſingle glance,
And ſhot at random, often has brought home
A ſudden fever, to the throbbing heart,
Of *envy*, *rancour*, or *impure deſire*.
We ſee, we hear, with peril; *ſafety* dwells
Remote from *multitude*; the world's a ſchool
Of *wrong*, and what proficients ſwarm around!
We muſt or imitate, or diſapprove;
Muſt liſt as their accomplices, or foes;
That ſtains our innocence, *this* wounds our peace.
From nature's birth, hence, *wiſdom* has been fain
With ſweet receſs, and languiſh'd for the ſhade.
This ſacred ſhade and ſolitude, what is it?
'Tis the felt preſence of the Deity.
Few are the faults we flatter when alone.
Vice ſinks in her allurements, is ungilt,
And looks, like other objects, black by night.
By night an Atheiſt half-believes a God.
Night is fair virtue's immemorial friend;
The conſcious moon, through every diſtant age,
Has held a lamp to *wiſdom*, and let fall
On *contemplation*'s eye, her purging ray.
The fam'd *Athenian*, he who woo'd from heav'n
Philoſophy the fair, to dwell with men,
And form their manners, not inflame their pride,
While o'er his head, as fearful to moleſt
His lab'ring mind, the ſtars in ſilence ſlide,

nd ſeem all gazing on their future gueſt,
e him ſoliciting his ardent ſuit
private audience: all the live-long night,
gid in thought, and motionleſs, he ſtands;
r quits his theme, or poſture, till the ſun
ude drunkard riſing roſy from the main!)
ſturbs his nobler intellectual beam,
nd gives him to the tumult of the world.
il! precious moments! ſtoln from the black waſte
murder'd time! auſpicious *midnight*! hail!
e world excluded, ev'ry paſſion huſh'd,
nd open'd a calm intercourſe with heav'n,
re the ſoul ſits in council; ponders *paſt*,
edeſtines *future* action; ſees, not feels,
multuous life; and reaſons with the ſtorm;
l her lies anſwers, and *thinks* down her charms.
What awful joy! what mental liberty!
m not pent in darkneſs; rather ſay
not too bold) in darkneſs I'm embower'd.
lightful gloom! the cluſt'ring thoughts around
ontaneous riſe and bloſſom in the ſhade;
t droop by day, and ſicken in the *ſun*.
ught borrows light elſewhere; from that *firſt* fire,
untain of animation! whence deſcends
rania, my celeſtial gueſt? who deigns
ghtly to viſit me, ſo mean; and *now*
onſcious how needful diſcipline to man,
om pleaſing dalliance with the charms of *night*
y wand'ring thought recalls, to what excites
r other beat of heart; *Narciſſa*'s tomb!
Or is it feeble nature calls me back,
nd breaks my ſpirit into grief again?

Is it a *Stygian* vapour in my blood?
A cold ſlow puddle, creeping thro' my veins!
Or is it thus with all men?——Thus with all.
What are we? how unequal! now we ſoar.
And now we ſink; to be the *ſame*, tranſcends
Our preſent proweſs. Dearly pays the *ſoul*
For lodging ill; too dearly rents her clay.
Reaſon, a baffled counſellor! but adds
The bluſh of weakneſs, to the bane of woe.
The nobleſt ſpirit fighting her hard fate,
In this damp, duſky region, charg'd with ſtorms,
But feebly flutters, yet untaught to fly;
Or, flying, ſhort her flight, and ſure her fall.
Our outmoſt ſtrength, when down, to raiſe again;
And not to *yield*, tho' *beaten*, all our praiſe.
'Tis vain to ſeek in men for more than man.
Tho' proud in promiſe, big in previous thought,
Experience damps our triumph. I, who late,
Emerging from the ſhadows of the grave
Where *grief* detain'd me pris'ner, mounting high
Threw wide the gates of everlaſting day,
And call'd mankind to glory, ſhook off *pain*,
Mortality ſhook off, in ether pure,
And ſtruck the ſtars; *now* feel my ſpirits fail,
They drop me from the zenith; down I ruſh,
Like him whom fable fledg'd with waxen wings,
In ſorrow drown'd——but not in ſorrow loſt.
How wretched is the man who never mourn'd!
I dive for precious pearl in *ſorrow*'s ſtream:
Not ſo the thoughtleſs man that *only* grieves;
Takes all the torment, and rejects the gain,
(Ineſtimable gain!) and gives heav'n leave

To make him but more wretched, not more wiſe.
If wiſdom is our leſſon (and what elſe
Ennobles man? what elſe have angels learnt?)
Grief! more proficients in thy ſchool are made,
Than *genius*, or *proud learning*, e'er could boaſt.
Voracious *learning*, often over-fed,
Digeſts not into ſenſe her motely meal.
This *book-caſe*, with dark booty almoſt burſt,
This *forager* on others wiſdom, leaves
Her native farm, her *reaſon*, quite untill'd.
With mixt manure ſhe ſurfeits the rank ſoil,
Dung'd, but not dreſs'd; and rich to beggary:
A pomp untameable of weed prevails.
Her *ſervant*'s wealth, incumber'd *wiſdom* mourns.
And what ſays *genius?* "*Let the dull be wiſe.*"
Genius, too hard for right, can prove it wrong;
And loves to boaſt, where bluſh men leſs inſpir'd.
It pleads exemption from the laws of *ſenſe;*
Conſiders *reaſon* as a leveller;
And ſcorns to ſhare a bleſſing with the croud.
That wiſe it *could* be, thinks an ample claim
To *glory*, and to *pleaſure* gives the reſt.
Craſſus but ſleeps, *Ardelio* is undone.
Wiſdom leſs ſhudders at a fool, than wit.
But *wiſdom* ſmiles when humbled mortals weep.
When *ſorrow* wounds the breaſt, as ploughs the glebe,
And hearts obdurate feel her ſoft'ning ſhower;
Her ſeed celeſtial, then, glad *wiſdom* ſows;
Her golden harveſt triumphs in the ſoil.
If ſo, *Narciſſa!* welcome my *Relapſe;*
I'll raiſe a tax on my calamity,
And reap rich compenſation from my pain.

I'll range the plenteous intellectual field;
And gather ev'ry thought of ſov'reign power
To chace the moral maladies of man;
Thoughts, which may bear tranſplanting to the ſkies,
Tho' natives of this coarſe penurious ſoil;
Nor wholly wither *there*, where *ſeraphs* ſing,
Refin'd, exalted, not annull'd in heaven.
Reaſon, the ſun that gives them birth, the ſame
In either clime, tho' more illuſtrious *there*.
Theſe choicely cull'd, and elegantly rang'd,
Shall form a garland for *Narciſſa*'s tomb;
And, peradventure, of no fading flowers.
Say, On what themes ſhall puzzled choice deſcend?
"Th' importance of contemplating the tomb;
"*Why* men decline it; *ſuicide*'s foul birth:
"The various *kinds of grief*; the *faults of age*;
"And *death*'s *dread character*—invite my ſong."
And, firſt, the importance of our end ſurvey'd,
Friends counſel quick diſmiſſion of our grief:
Miſtaken kindneſs! our hearts heal *too ſoon*.
Are *they* more kind than *he* who ſtruck the blow?
Who bid it do his errand in our hearts,
And baniſh peace, till *nobler gueſts* arrive,
And bring it back, a true, and endleſs peace?
Calamities are *friends*: as glaring *day*
Of theſe unnumber'd luſtres robs our ſight;
Proſperity puts out unnumber'd thoughts
Of import high, and light divine, to man.
The man how bleſt, who, ſick of gaudy ſcenes,
(Scenes apt to thruſt between us and ourſelves!)
Is led by choice to take his fav'rite walk,
Beneath *death*'s gloomy, ſilent, cypreſs ſhades,

Unpierc'd by fanity's fantaſtic ray;
To read his monuments, to weigh his duſt,
Viſit his vaults, and dwell among the tombs!
Lorenzo! read with me *Narciſſa*'s ſtone;
(*Narciſſa* was thy fav'rite) let us read
Her *moral* ſtone, few doctors preach ſo well;
Few orators ſo tenderly can touch
The feeling heart. What *pathos* in the *date!*
Apt words can ſtrike, and yet in them we ſee
Faint images of what we *here* enjoy.
What cauſe have *we* to build on length of life?
Temptations ſeize, when *fear* is laid aſleep;
And ill foreboded is our ſtrongeſt guard.
See from her tomb, as from an humble ſhrine,
Truth, radiant goddeſs! ſallies on my ſoul,
And puts *deluſion*'s duſky train to flight;
Diſpels the miſts our ſultry *paſſions* raiſe,
From objects low, terreſtrial, and obſcene;
And ſhews the *real* eſtimate of things;
Which no man, unafflicted, ever ſaw;
Pulls off the veil from *virtue*'s riſing charms;
Detects *temptation* in a thouſand lies.
Truth bids me look on men as *autumn* leaves,
And all they bleed for, as the ſummer's duſt,
Driv'n by the whirlwind. Lighted by her beams,
I widen my horizon, gain new powers,
See things inviſible, feel things remote,
Am preſent with futurities; think nought
To man ſo foreign, as the joys *poſſeſt*;
Nought ſo much his, as thoſe beyond the grave.
No *folly* keeps its colour in *her* ſight;
Pale *worldly wiſdom* loſes all her charms;

In pompous promiſe from her ſchemes profound,
If future fate ſhe plans, 'tis all in leaves,
Like *Sybil*, unſubſtantial, fleeting bliſs!
At the firſt blaſt it vaniſhes in air.
Not ſo *celeſtial*. Wouldſt thou know, *Lorenzo!*
How differ *worldly wiſdom*, and *divine?*
Juſt as the weaning, and the waxing moon.
More empty *worldly* wiſdom ev'ry day;
And ev'ry day more fair her *rival* ſhines.
When *later*, there's leſs time to play the fool.
Soon our whole term for wiſdom is expir'd,
(Thou know'ſt ſhe calls no council in the grave)
An everlaſting fool is writ in fire,
Or *real* wiſdom wafts us to the ſkies.

As worldly ſchemes reſemble *Sybil*'s leaves,
The good man's days to *Sybil*'s books compare,
(In ancient ſtory read, thou know'ſt the tale)
In price ſtill riſing, as in number leſs,
Ineſtimable quite his final hour.
For that who thrones can offer, offer thrones;
Inſolvent worlds the purchaſe cannot pay.
"Oh let me die his death!" all nature cries.
"Then live his life"——all nature faulters there.
Our great phyſician daily to conſult,
To commune with the *grave*, our only cure.

What grave preſcribes the beſt?—a friend's; and yet,
From a friend's grave, how ſoon we diſengage!
Ev'n to the deareſt, as his marble, cold.
Why are friends raviſh'd from us? 'tis to bind,
By ſoft *affection*'s ties on human hearts,
The thought of death, which *reaſon*, too ſupine,

Or miſemploy'd, ſo rarely faſtens *there*.
Nor reaſon, nor affection; no, nor both
Combin'd, can break the witchcrafts of the world.
Behold th' inexorable hour at hand!
Behold th' inexorable hour forgot!
And to forget it, the chief *aim* of life,
Tho' well to ponder it, is life's chief *end*.
Is death, that ever threat'ning, ne'er remote,
That all-important, and that only ſure,
(Come when he will) an unexpected gueſt?
Nay, tho' invited by the loudeſt calls
Of blind *imprudence*, unexpected ſtill?
Tho' num'rous meſſengers are ſent before
To warn his great arrival. What the cauſe,
The wond'rous cauſe, of this myſterious ill?
All heav'n looks down aſtoniſh'd at the ſight.
Is it, that life has ſown her *joys* ſo thick,
We can't thruſt in a ſingle care between?
Is it, that life has ſuch a ſwarm of *cares*,
The thought of death can't enter for the throng?
Is it, that *time* ſteals on with downy feet,
Nor wakes *indulgence* from her golden dream?
To-day is ſo like *yeſterday*, it cheats;
We take the lying ſiſter for the ſame.
Life glides away, *Lorenzo!* like a brook;
For ever changing, unperceiv'd the change.
In the ſame brook none ever bath'd him twice:
To the ſame life none ever twice awoke.
We call the brook the ſame; the ſame we think
Our life, tho' ſtill more rapid in its flow;
Nor mark the *much* irrevocably laps'd,
And mingled with the ſea. Or ſhall we ſay

(Retaining ſtill the brook to bear us on)
That life is like a veſſel on the ſtream?
In life embark'd, we ſmoothly down the tide
Of *time* deſcend, but not on *time* intent;
Amus'd, unconſcious of the gliding wave;
Till on a ſudden we perceive a ſhock;
We ſtart, awake, look out; what ſee we there?
Our brittle bark is burſt on *Charon*'s ſhore.
'Is this the cauſe *death* flies all human thought?
Or is it *judgement* by the *will* ſtruck blind,
That domineering miſtreſs of the ſoul!
Like *him* ſo ſtrong by *Dalilah* the fair?
Or is it *fear* turns ſtartled *reaſon* back,
From looking down a precipice ſo ſteep?
'Tis dreadful; and the dread is wiſely plac'd
By nature, conſcious of the make of man.
A dreadful friend it is, a terror kind,
A flaming ſword to guard the tree of life.
By that unaw'd, in life's moſt ſmiling hour,
The *good man* would repine; would *ſuffer* joys,
And burn impatient for his promis'd ſkies.
The *bad*, on each punctilious pique of pride,
Or gloom of humour, would give rage the rein,
Bound o'er the barrier, ruſh into the dark,
And mar the ſcenes of Providence below.
What groan was that, *Lorenzo?*—Furies! riſe;
And drown, in your leſs execrable yell,
Britania's ſhame. There took her gloomy flight,
On wing impetuous, a black ſullen ſoul,
Blaſted from hell, with horrid luſt of death.
Thy friend, the brave, the gallant *Altamont*,
So call'd, ſo thought—And *then* he fled the field.

Leſs baſe the fear of death, than fear of life.
O *Britain*, infamous for ſuicide!
An *iſland* in thy manners! far disjoin'd,
From the whole world of *rationals* beſide!
In ambient waves plunge thy polluted head,
Waſh the dire ſtain, nor ſhock the continent.
But thou be ſhock'd, while I detect the cauſe
Of *ſelf-aſſault*, expoſe the monſter's birth,
And bid *abhorrence* hiſs it round the world.
Blame not thy clime, chide the diſtant ſun;
The ſun is innocent, thy clime abſolv'd:
Immoral climes kind nature never made.
The cauſe I ſing, in *Eden* might prevail,
And proves, it is thy folly, not thy fate.
The ſoul of man (let man in homage bow,
Who names his *ſoul*) a native of the ſkies!
High-born, and free, her freedom ſhould maintain,
Unfold, unmortgag'd for *earth*'s little bribes.
Th' illuſtrious ſtranger, in this foreign land,
Like ſtrangers, jealous of her dignity,
Studious of home, and ardent to return,
Of *earth* ſuſpicious, *earth*'s inchanted cup
With cool reſerve light-touching, ſhould indulge,
On *immortality*, her godlike taſte;
There take large draughts; make her chief banquet *there*.
But ſome reject this ſuſtenance divine:
To beggarly vile appetites deſcend;
Aſk alms of *earth*, for gueſts that came from *heav'n!*
Sink into ſlaves; and ſell, for *preſent* hire,
Their rich reverſion, and (what ſhares its fate)
Their native *freedom*, to the prince who ſways

This nether world. And when his payments fail,
When his foul baſket gorges them no more;
Or their pall'd palates lothe the baſket full;
Are inſtantly, with wild demoniac rage,
For breaking all the chains of Providence,
And burſting their confinement; tho' faſt barr'd
By laws divine and humane; guarded ſtrong
With *horrors* doubled to defend the paſs,
The blackeſt, *nature*, or *dire guilt*, can raiſe;
And moated round, with fathomleſs *deſtruction*;
Sure to receive, and whelm them in their fall.
Such, *Britons!* is the *cauſe*, to you unknown,
Or worſe, o'erlook'd; o'erlook'd by magiſtrates,
Thus criminals themſelves. I grant the deed
Is madneſs; but the madneſs of the *heart*.
And what is that? our outmoſt bound of guilt.
A ſenſual, unreflecting life, is big
With monſtrous births, and *ſuicide*, to crown
The black infernal brood. The bold to break
Heav'n's law ſupreme, and deſperately ruſh
Thro' ſacred *nature's* murder, on their own,
Becauſe they never *think of death*, they die.
'Tis equally man's duty, glory, gain,
At once to ſhun, and meditate, his end.
When by the bed of languiſhment we ſit,
(The ſeat of *wiſdom!* if our choice, not fate)
Or o'er our dying friends, in anguiſh hang,
Wipe the cold dew, or ſtay the ſinking head,
Number their moment, and, in ev'ry clock,
Start at the voice of an Eternity;
See the dim lamp of life juſt feebly liſt
An agonizing beam, at us to gaze,

Then ſink again, and quiver into death,
That moſt pathetic herald of our own;
How read we ſuch ſad ſcenes? As ſent to man
In perfect vengeance? No; in pity ſent,
To melt him down, like wax, and then impreſs,
Indelible, *death*'s image on his heart;
Bleeding for others, trembling for himſelf.
We bleed, we tremble; we forget, we ſmile.
The mind turns fool, before the cheek is dry.
Our quick-returning *folly* cancels all;
As the tide ruſhing razes what is writ
In yielding ſands, and ſmoothes the letter'd ſhore.
Lorenzo! haſt thou ever weigh'd a *ſigh?*
Or ſtudy'd the philoſophy of *tears?*
(A ſcience, yet, unlectur'd in our ſchools!)
Haſt thou deſcended deep into the breaſt,
And ſeen their ſource? if not, deſcend with me,
And trace theſe briny riv'lets to their ſprings.
Our fun'ral tears, from diff'rent cauſes, riſe;
As if from ſeparate ciſterns in the ſoul,
Of *various kinds*, they flow. From tender hearts,
By ſoft contagion call'd, *ſome* burſt at once,
And ſtream obſequious to the leading eye.
Some aſk more time, by curious *art* diſtill'd.
Some hearts, in ſecret hard, unapt to melt,
Struck by the magic of the public eye,
Like *Moſes'* ſmitten rock, guſh out amain.
Some weep to ſhare the fame of the deceas'd,
So high in merit, and to them ſo dear.
They dwell on praiſes, which they think they ſhare;
And thus, without a bluſh, commend themſelves.
Some mourn in proof, that ſomething they could love;

They weep not to *relieve* their grief, but *ſhew*.
Some weep in perfect juſtice to the dead,
As conſcious all their love is in arrear.
Some miſchievouſly weep; not unappris'd
Tears, ſometimes, aid the conqueſt of an eye.
With what addreſs the ſoft *Epheſians* draw
Their ſable net-work o'er entangled hearts?
As ſeen thro' chryſtal, how their roſes glow,
While *liquid pearl* runs trickling down their cheek
Of her's not prouder *Egypt*'s wanton queen,
Carouſing gems, herſelf diſſolv'd in love.
Some weep at *death*, abſtracted from the *dead*,
And celebrate like CHARLES, their own diſeaſe.
By kind conſtruction ſome are *deem'd* to weep,
Becauſe a decent veil conceals their joy.
Some weep in earneſt; and yet weep in vain;
As deep in indiſcretion, as in woe.
Paſſion, blind paſſion! impotently pours
Tears, that deſerve more tears; while *reaſon* flees,
Or gazes, like an idiot, unconcern'd;
Nor comprehends the meaning of the ſtorm;
Knows not it ſpeaks to *her*, and her *alone*.
Irrationals all ſorrow are beneath,
That noble gift! that privilege of man!
From *ſorrow*'s pang, the birth of endleſs joy.
But *theſe* are barren of that birth divine:
They weep impetuous, as the ſummer-ſtorm,
And full as ſhort! the cruel *grief* ſoon tam'd,
They make a paſtime of the ſtingleſs tale
Far as the deep-reſounding knell, they ſpread
The dreadful news, and hardly feel it more.
No grain of *wiſdom* pays them for their *woe*.

Half round the globe, the tears pumpt up by death
re ſpent in wat'ring vanities of life;
making *folly* flouriſh ſtill more fair.
hen the ſick ſoul, her wonted ſtay withdrawn,
eclines on earth, and ſorrows in the duſt;
ſtead of learning, *there*, her *true ſupport*,
ho' there thrown down, her true ſupport to learn,
ithout Heav'n's aid, impatient to be bleſt,
e crawls to the next ſhrub, or bramble vile,
ho' from the ſtately cedar's arms ſhe fell,
ith ſtale, foreſworn embraces, clings anew,
he ſtranger weds, and bloſſoms as before,
all the fruitleſs fopperies of life:
reſents her *weed*, well-fancy'd, at the ball,
nd raffles for the *death's-head* on the ring.
So wept *Aurelia*, till the deſtin'd youth
ept in, with his receipt for making ſmiles,
nd blanching ſables into bridal bloom.
wept *Lorenzo* fair *Clariſſa*'s fate;
ho gave that angel-boy, on whom he doats:
nd dy'd to give him, orphan'd in his birth!
ot ſuch, *Narciſſa!* my diſtreſs for thee.
l make an altar of thy ſacred tomb
o ſacrifice to *wiſdom*.——What waſt thou?
Young, *gay*, and *fortunate!*" Each yields a theme.
ll dwell on each, to ſhun thought more ſevere;
Heav'n knows I labour with ſeverer ſtill!)
ll dwell on each, and quite exhauſt thy death.
ſoul without reflection, like a pile
ithout inhabitant, to ruin runs.
And, firſt, thy *youth*. What ſays it to grey hairs?
arciſſa, I'm become *thy* pupil *now*——

Early, bright, tranſient, chaſte, as morning dew,
She ſparkled, was exhal'd, and went to heav'n.
Time on this head has ſnow'd; yet ſtill 'tis borne
Aloft; nor thinks but on *another's* grave.
Cover'd with ſhame I ſpeak it, *age ſevere*
Old worn-out vice ſets down for virtue fair;
With graceleſs gravity, chaſtiſing youth,
That youth chaſtis'd ſurpaſſing in a fault,
Father of all, forgetfulneſs of death:
As if, like objects preſſing on the ſight,
Death had advanc'd too near us to be ſeen:
Or, that life's loan *time* ripen'd into right;
And men might plead preſcription from the grave;
Deathleſs, from repetition of reprieve.
Deathleſs? far from it! *ſuch* are dead already;
Their hearts are bury'd, and the world their grave.
Tell me, ſome god! my guardian angel! tell,
What thus infatuates? what inchantment plants
The phantom of an age 'twixt us, and death
Already at the door? He knocks, we hear him,
And yet we will not hear. What mail defends
Our untouch'd hearts? what miracle turns off
The pointed thought, which from a thouſand quivers
Is daily darted? and is daily ſhunn'd?
We ſtand, as in a battle, throngs on throngs
Around us falling; wounded oft ourſelves;
Tho' bleeding with our wounds, immortal ſtill!
We ſee time's furrows on another's brow,
And death intrench'd, preparing his aſſault;
How few themſelves, in that juſt mirror, ſee!
Or, ſeeing, draw their inference as ſtrong!
There death is certain; doubtful *here*: he *muſt*,

And *ſoon*; we *may*, within an *age*, expire.
Tho' grey our heads, our thoughts and aims are green;
Like damag'd clocks, whoſe hand and bell diſſent,
Folly ſings ſix, while *nature* points at twelve.
Abſurd *longevity!* more, more it cries:
More life, more wealth, more traſh of ev'ry kind.
And wherefore mad for more, when reliſh fails?
Object, and *appetite*, muſt club for joy;
Shall *folly* labour hard to mend the bow,
Baubles, I mean, that ſtrike us from *without*,
While *nature* is relaxing ev'ry ſtring?
Aſk *thought* for joy; grow rich and hoard *within*.
Think you the ſoul, when this life's rattles ceaſe,
Has nothing of more manly to ſucceed?
Contract the taſte immortal; learn, ev'n now,
To reliſh what *alone* ſubſiſts hereafter.
Divine, or *none*, henceforth your joys for ever.
Of *age* the glory is, to *wiſh* to die.
That wiſh is *praiſe* and *promiſe*: it applauds
Paſt life, and promiſes our future bliſs.
What weakneſs ſee not children in their ſires!
Grand-climacterical abſurdities?
Grey-hair'd authority, to faults of youth,
How ſhocking? It makes folly thrice a fool;
And our firſt childhood might our laſt deſpiſe.
Peace and *eſteem* is all that age can hope.
Nothing but *wiſdom* gives the *firſt*; the *laſt*,
Nothing but the *repute of being wiſe*.
Folly bars both; our age is quite undone.
What folly can be ranker? Like our ſhadows,
Our wiſhes lengthen, as our ſun declines.
No wiſh ſhould loiter, *then*, this ſide the grave.

Our hearts ſhould leave the world, before the knell
Calls for our carcaſes to mend the ſoil.
Enough to live in tempeſt, die in port;
Age ſhould fly concourſe, cover in retreat
Defects of *judgement*; and the *will*'s ſubdue;
Walk thoughtful on the ſilent, ſolemn ſhore
Of that vaſt ocean it muſt ſail ſo ſoon;
And put *good works* on board; and wait the wind
That ſhortly blows us into worlds unknown;
If *unconſider'd* too, a dreadful ſcene!

All ſhould be prophets to themſelves; foreſee
Their future fate; their future fate foretaſte;
This art would waſte the bitterneſs of death.
The *thought* of death alone, the *fear* deſtroys.
A diſaffection to that precious thought
Is more than *midnight* darkneſs on the ſoul,
Which ſleeps beneath it, on a *precipice*,
Puff'd off by the firſt blaſt, and loſt for ever.

Doſt aſk, *Lorenzo*, why ſo warmly preſs'd,
By repetition hammer'd on thine ear,
The thought of death? That thought is the machine,
The grand machine! that heaves us from the duſt,
And rears us into men. That thought ply'd home
Will ſoon reduce the ghaſtly *precipice*
O'er-hanging hell, will ſoften the deſcent,
And gently ſlope our paſſage to the grave;
How warmly to be wiſh'd! What heart of fleſh
Would trifle with tremendous? Dare extremes
Yawn o'er the fate of infinite? What hand,
Beyond the blackeſt brand of cenſure bold,
(To ſpeak a language *too well* known to thee)
Would at a moment give its *all* to chance,

And *ſtamp* the dye for an eternity?
Aid me, *Narciſſa!* aid me to keep pace
With *deſtiny;* and ere her ſciſſars cut
My thread of life, to break this toucher thread
Of moral death, that ties me to the world.
Sting thou my ſlum'bring *reaſon* to ſend forth
A thought of obſervation on the foe;
To ſally, and ſurvey the rapid march
Of his ten thouſand meſſengers to man;
Who, *Jehu*-like, behind him turns them all.
All *accident* apart, by *nature* ſign'd,
My warrant is gone out, tho' dormant yet;
Perhaps behind one moment lurks my fate.
Muſt I then *forward* only look for death?
Backward I turn mine eye, and find him there.
Man is a ſelf ſurvivor ev'ry year.
Man, like a ſtream, is in perpetual flow.
Death's a deſtroyer of quotidian prey,
My *youth*, my *noon-tide*, his; my *yeſterday*;
The bold invader ſhares the *preſent* hour.
Each moment on the former ſhuts the grave.
While man is growing, life is in decreaſe;
And craddles rock us nearer to the tomb.
Our birth is nothing but our death begun;
As tapers waſte, that inſtant they take fire.
Shall we then fear, leſt that ſhould come to paſs,
Which comes to paſs each moment of our lives?
If fear we muſt, let *that* death turn us pale,
Which murders *ſtrength* and *ardor*; what remains
Should rather call on death, than dread his call.
Ye partners of my fault, and my decline!
Thoughtleſs of death, but when your neighbour's knell

(Rude viſitant!) knocks hard at your dull ſenſe,
And with its thunder ſcarce obtains your ear!
Be death your theme, in every place and hour;
Nor longer want, ye monumental fires!
A brother-tomb to tell you, you ſhall die.
That death you *dread* (ſo great is nature's ſkill)
Know, you ſhall *court*, before you ſhall enjoy.
But you are learn'd; in volumes deep you ſit;
In wiſdom ſhallow: pompous ignorance!
Would you be ſtill more learned than the learn'd?
Learn well to know how much need not be known,
And what that *knowledge*, which impairs your *ſenſe*.
Our needful knowledge, like our needful food,
Unhedg'd, lyes open in life's common field;
And bids all welcome to the vital feaſt.
You ſcorn what lyes before you in the page
Of *nature*, and *experience*, moral truth;
Of indiſpenſible, eternal fruit;
Fruit, on which mortals feeding turn to gods:
And dive in *ſcience* for diſtinguiſh'd names,
Diſhoneſt fomentation of your pride;
Sinking in virtue, as you riſe in fame.
Your learning, like the *lunar* beam affords
Light, but not heat; it leaves you undevout,
Frozen at heart, while ſpeculation ſhines.
Awake, ye curious indagators! fond
Of knowing all, but what avails you known.
If you would learn *death's character*, attend.
All caſts of conduct, all degrees of health,
All dyes of fortune, and all dates of age,
Together ſhook in his impartial urn,
Come forth at random: or if choice is made,

The choice is quite *ſarcaſtic*, and inſults
All bold conjecture, and fond hopes of man.
What countleſs multitudes not only *leave*,
But deeply *diſappoint* us, by their deaths?
Tho' great our ſorrow, greater our ſurpriſe.
Like other tyrants, *death* delights to ſmite,
What, ſmitten, moſt proclaims the pride of power,
And arbitrary nod. His joy ſupreme,
To bid the wretch ſurvive the fortunate;
The feeble wrap th' athletic in his ſhroud;
And weeping fathers build their childrens tomb.
Me thine, *Narciſſa!*—What tho' ſhort thy date?
Virtue, not rolling ſuns, the mind matures.
That life is long, which anſwers life's great end.
The time that bears no fruit, deſerves no name;
The man of wiſdom is the man of years.
In hoary youth *Methuſalems* may die;
O how *miſdated* on their flatt'ring tombs!
Narciſſa's *youth* has lectur'd me thus far.
And can her *gaiety* give counſel too?
That, like the *Jews'* fam'd oracle of gems,
Sparkles inſtruction; ſuch as throws new light,
And opens more the *character of death;*
Ill known to thee, *Lorenzo! this* thy vaunt:
"Give death his due, the wretched and the old;
"E'en let him ſweep his rubbiſh to the grave;
"Let him not violate kind nature's laws,
"But own man born to *live*, as well as *die*."
Wretched and *old* thou giv'ſt him; *young* and *gay*
He takes; and *plunder* is a tyrant's joy.
What if I prove, "The fartheſt from the *fear*,
"Are often neareſt to the *ſtroke* of fate?"

All, more than common, menaces an end.
A blaze betokens brevity of life:
As if bright embers ſhould emit a flame,
Glad ſpirits ſparkled from *Narciſſa*'s eye,
And made youth younger, and taught life to live
As nature's oppoſites wage endleſs war,
For *this* offence, as treaſon to the deep
Inviolable ſtupor of his reign,
Where *luſt*, and turbulent *ambition*, ſleep,
Death took ſwift vengeance. As he life deteſts,
More life is ſtill more odious; and, reduc'd
By conqueſt, aggrandizes more his power.
But *wherefore* aggrandiz'd? by Heav'n's decree,
To plant the ſoul on her eternal guard,
In awful expectation of our end.
Thus runs death's dread commiſſion: "Strike, but *ſo*,
"As moſt alarms the living by the dead."
Hence *ſtratagem* delights him, and *ſurpriſe*,
And cruel ſport with man's ſecurities.
Not ſimple conqueſt, triumph is his aim;
And, where leaſt fear'd, there conqueſt triumphs moſt.
This proves my bold aſſertion not too bold.
What are *his* arts to lay our fears aſleep?
Tiberian arts his purpoſes wrap up
In deep diſſimulation's darkeſt night.
Like princes unconfeſs'd in foreign courts,
Who travel under cover, *death* aſſumes
The name and look of *life*, and dwells among us.
He takes all ſhapes that ſerve his black deſigns:
Tho' maſter of a wider empire far
Than that o'er which the *Roman* eagle flew;
Like *Nero*, he's a fidler, charioteer,

Or, drives his *Phaeton*, in female guiſe;
Quite unſuſpected, till the wheel beneath,
His diſarray'd oblation he devours.
He moſt affects the forms leaſt like himſelf,
His ſlender ſelf. Hence burly corpulence
Is his familiar wear, and ſleek diſguiſe.
Behind the roſy bloom he loves to lurk,
Or ambuſh in a ſmile; or wanton dive
In dimples deep; love's eddies, which draw in
Unwary hearts, and ſink them in deſpair.
Such, on *Narciſſa*'s couch, he loiter'd long,
Unknown; and, when detected, ſtill was ſeen
To *ſmile*; ſuch peace has innocence in death!
Moſt happy they! whom leaſt his arts deceive.
One eye on *death*, and one full fix'd on *heaven*,
Becomes a mortal, and immortal man.
Long on his wiles a piqu'd and jealous ſpy,
I've ſeen, or dream'd I ſaw, the tyrant *dreſs*;
Lay by his horrors, and put on his ſmiles.
Say, muſe, for thou remember'ſt, call it back,
And ſhew *Lorenzo* the ſurpriſing ſcene;
If 'twas a dream, his genius can explain.
'Twas in a circle of the *gay* I ſtood.
Death would have enter'd; *nature puſh'd* him back;
Supported by a doctor of renown,
His point he gain'd. Then artfully *diſmiſs'd*
The ſage; for *death* deſign'd to be conceal'd.
He gave an old vivacious *uſurer*
His meagre aſpect and his naked bones;
In gratitude for plumping up his prey,
A pamper'd *ſpendthrift*, whoſe fantaſtic air,
Well-faſhion'd figure, and cockaded brow,

He took in change, and underneath the pride
Of coſtly linen, tuck'd his filthy ſhroud.
His crooked bow he ſtraighten'd to a cane;
And hid his deadly ſhafts in *Myra*'s eye.
The dreadful maſquerader, thus equip'd,
Out-ſallies on adventures. Aſk you where?
Where is he not! for his peculiar haunts,
Let *this* ſuffice: ſure as night follows day,
Death treads in *pleaſure*'s footſteps round the world,
When *pleaſure* treads the paths which *reaſon* ſhuns.
When, againſt *reaſon*, *riot* ſhuts the door,
And *gaiety* ſupplies the place of *ſenſe*,
Then, foremoſt at the banquet, and the ball,
Death leads the dance, or ſtamps the deadly dye;
Nor ever fails the midnight bowl to crown.
Gayly carouſing to his gay compeers,
Inly he laughs, to ſee them laugh at him,
As abſent far: and when the revel burns,
When *fear* is baniſh'd, and triumphant thought
Calling for all the joys beneath the moon,
Againſt him turns the key; and bids him ſup
With their progenitors——He drops his maſk;
Frowns out at full; they ſtart, deſpair, expire.
Scarce with more ſudden terror and ſurpriſe,
From his black maſque of nitre, touch'd by fire,
He burſts, expands, roars, blazes, and devours.
And is not this triumphant treachery,
And *more than ſimple conqueſt*, in the fiend?
And now, *Lorenzo*, doſt thou wrap thy ſoul
In ſoft ſecurity, becauſe unknown
Which moment is commiſſion'd to deſtroy?
In *death*'s uncertainty thy danger lyes.

Is *death* uncertain? therefore be thou fix'd;
Fix'd as a centinel, all eye, all ear,
All expectation of the coming foe.
Rouſe, ſtand in arms, nor lean againſt thy ſpear;
Leſt ſlumber ſteal one moment o'er thy ſoul,
And *fate* ſurpriſe thee nodding. Watch, be ſtrong;
Thus give each day the merit and renown
Of dying well; tho' doom'd but once to die.
Nor let life's *period* hidden (as from moſt
Hide too from thee the precious *uſe* of life.
Early, not ſudden, was *Narciſſa*'s fate;
Soon, not ſurpriſing, *death* his viſit paid.
Her thought went forth to meet him on his way,
Nor *gaiety* forgot it was to die.
Tho' *fortune* too (our third and final theme)
As an accomplice, play'd her gaudy plumes,
And ev'ry glittering gewgaw, on her ſight,
To dazzle, and debauch it from its mark.
Death's dreadful advent is the mark of man;
And ev'ry thought that miſſes it, is blind.
Fortune, with *youth* and *gaiety*, conſpired
To weave a *triple* wreath of happineſs,
If happineſs on earth) to crown her brow.
And could *death* charge thro' ſuch a ſhining ſhield?
That ſhining ſhield *invites* the tyrant's ſpear.
As if to damp our elevated aims,
And ſtrongly preach humility to man.
O how portentous is proſperity!
How, comet-like, it threatens, while it ſhines!
Few years but yield us proof of *death*'s ambition
To cull his victims from the faireſt fold,
And ſheath his ſhafts in all the pride of life.

When flooded with abundance, purpled o'er
With recent honour, bloom'd with ev'ry bliſs,
Set up in oſtentation, made the gaze,
The gaudy centre, of the public eye,
When *fortune* thus has toſs'd her child in air,
Snatch'd from the covert of an humble ſtate,
How often have I ſeen him dropt at once,
Our morning's envy! and our ev'ning's ſigh?
As if her bounties were the ſignal given,
The flow'ry wreath to mark the ſacrifice,
And call death's arrows on the deſtin'd prey.
High fortune ſeems in cruel league with *fate*.
Aſk you for what? to give his war on man
The deeper dread, and more illuſtrious ſpoil;
Thus to keep daring mortals more in awe.
And burns *Lorenzo* ſtill for the ſublime
Of life? to hang his airy neſt on high,
On the ſlight timber of the topmoſt bough,
Rock'd at each breeze, and menacing a fall?
Granting grim *death* at equal diſtance *there*;
Yet *peace* begins juſt where *ambition* ends.
What makes man wretched? Happineſs *deny'd*?
Lorenzo! no: 'tis happineſs *diſdain'd*.
She comes too meanly dreſs'd to win our ſmile;
And calls herſelf *Content*, a homely name!
Our flame is *tranſport*, and *content* our ſcorn.
Ambition turns, and ſhuts the door againſt her,
And weds a *toil*, a *tempeſt* in her ſtead;
A *tempeſt* to warm *tranſport* near of kin.
Unknowing what our mortal ſtate admits,
Life's modeſt joys we ruin, while we raiſe;
And all our ecſtaſies are wounds to peace.

Peace, the full portion of mankind below.
And ſince thy peace is dear, ambitious youth!
Of fortune fond! as thoughtleſs of thy fate!
As late I drew *death*'s picture, to ſtir up
Thy wholſome fears; now, drawn in contraſt, ſee
Gay *fortune*'s, thy vain hopes to reprimand.
See, high in air, the ſportive goddeſs hangs,
Unlocks her caſket, ſpreads her glittering ware,
And calls the giddy winds to puff abroad
Her random bounties o'er the gaping throng.
All ruſh rapacious; friends o'er trodden friends;
Sons o'er their fathers, ſubjects o'er their kings,
Prieſts o'er their gods, and lovers o'er the fair,
(Still *more* ador'd), to ſnatch the golden ſhow'r.
Gold glitters moſt, where *virtue* ſhines no more;
As ſtars from abſent ſuns have leave to ſhine.
O what a precious pack of votaries
Unkennell'd from the priſons, and the ſtews
Pour in, all op'ning in their idol's praiſe?
All, ardent, eye each wafture of her hand,
And wide-expanding their voracious jaws,
Morſel on morſel ſwallow down unchew'd,
Untaſted, through mad appetite for more;
Gorg'd to the throat, yet lean and rav'nous ſtill.
Sagacious all, to trace the ſmalleſt game,
And bold to ſeize the greateſt. If (bleſt chance!)
Court-zephyrs ſweetly breathe, they launch, they fly,
O'er juſt, o'er ſacred, all forbidden ground,
Drunk with the burning ſcent of place or pow'r,
Staunch to the foot of lucre, till they die.
Or, if for men you take them, as I mark
Their manners, thou their various fates ſurvey.

With aim miſ-meaſur'd, and impetuous ſpeed,
Some, darting, ſtrike their ardent wiſh far off,
Thro' fury to poſſeſs it: *ſome* ſucceed,
But ſtumble, and let fall the taken prize.
From *ſome*, by ſudden blaſts, 'tis whirl'd away,
And lodg'd in boſoms that ne'er dream'd of gain.
To *ſome* it ſticks ſo cloſe, that when torn off,
Torn is the man, and mortal is the wound.
Some, o'er-enamour'd of their bags, run mad,
Groan under gold, yet weep for want of bread.
Together *ſome* (unhappy rivals!) ſeize,
And rend abundance into poverty;
Loud croaks the raven of the law, and ſmiles:
Smiles too the goddeſs; but ſmiles moſt at thoſe,
(Juſt victims of exorbitant deſire!)
Who periſh at their own requeſt, and, whelm'd
Beneath her load of laviſh grants, expire.
Fortune is famous for her numbers ſlain.
The number ſmall which happineſs can bear.
Tho' *various* for a while their fates; at laſt
One curſe involves them all: at death's approach,
All read their riches backward into loſs,
And mourn in juſt proportion to their ſtore.
And *death*'s approach (if orthodox my ſong)
Is haſten'd by the lure of *fortune*'s ſmiles.
And art thou ſtill a glutton of bright gold?
And art thou ſtill rapacious of thy ruin?
Death loves a ſhining mark, a ſignal blow;
A blow, which, while it executes, alarms;
And ſtartles thouſands with a ſingle fall.
As when ſome ſtately growth of oak, or pine,
Which nods aloft, and proudly ſpreads her ſhade,

The ſun's defiance, and the flock's defence;
By the ſtrong ſtrokes of lab'ring hinds ſubdu'd,
Loud groans her laſt, and, ruſhing from her height
In cumb'rous ruin, thunders to the ground;
The conſcious foreſt trembles at the ſhock;
And hill, and ſtream, and diſtant dale, reſound.
Theſe high-aim'd darts of *death*, and theſe alone,
Should I collect, my quiver would be full.
A quiver, which, ſuſpended in mid air,
Or near heav'n's archer, in the zodiac, hung,
(So could it be) *ſhould* draw the public eye,
The gaze and contemplation of mankind!
A conſtellation awful, yet benign,
To guide the *gay* thro' life's tempeſtuous wave:
Nor ſuffer them to ſtrike the common rock,
"From greater danger to grow more ſecure,
"And, wrapt in happineſs, forget their fate."
Lyſander, happy paſt the common lot,
Was warn'd of danger, but too *gay* to fear.
He woo'd the fair *Aſpaſia*: ſhe was kind:
In youth, form, fortune, fame, they both were bleſt.
All who knew, envy'd; yet in envy lov'd:
Can fancy form more finiſh'd happineſs?
Fix'd was the nuptial hour. Her ſtately dome
Roſe on the ſounding beach. The glitt'ring ſpires
Float in the wave, and break againſt the ſhore:
So break thoſe glitt'ring ſhadows, human joys.
The faithleſs morning ſmil'd: he takes his leave,
To re-embrace in ecſtacies, at eve.
The riſing ſtorm forbids. The news arrives:
Untol'd, ſhe ſaw it in her ſervant's eye.
She felt it ſeen, (her heart was apt to feel);

And, drown'd, without the furious ocean's aid,
In ſuffocating ſorrows, ſhares his tomb.
Now, round the ſumptuous bridal monument,
The guilty billows innocently roar;
And the rough ſailor paſſing drops a tear.
A tear! can tears ſuffice?—but not for *me*.
How vain our efforts! and our arts, how vain!
The *diſtant* train of thought I took, to ſhun,
Has thrown me on my fate—*Theſe* dy'd together;
Happy in ruin! *undivorc'd* by death!
Or ne'er to meet, or ne'er to part, is peace—
Narciſſa! pity bleeds at thought of thee.
Yet thou waſt only *near* me; not *myſelf*.
Survive *myſelf?—that* cures all other woe.
Narciſſa lives; *Philander* is forgot.
O the ſoft commerce! O the tender ties,
Cloſe-twiſted with the fibres of the heart!
Which, broken, break them; and drain off the ſoul
Of human joy; and make it pain to live.—
And is it then to live? when *ſuch* friends part,
'Tis the ſurvivor dies—My heart! no more.

NIGHT THE SIXTH.

THE INFIDEL RECLAIMED.

In TWO PARTS.

CONTAINING

The NATURE, PROOF, and IMPORTANCE

OF

IMMORTALITY.

PART THE FIRST.

Where, among other things, GLORY and RICHES are particularly considered.

HUMBLY INSCRIBED

To the Right Hon. *HENRY PELHAM*,

First LORD COMMISSIONER of the TREASURY,

AND

CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER.

PREFACE.

FEW ages have been deeper in diſpute about religion than this. The diſpute about religion, and the practice of it, ſeldom go together. The ſhorter, therefore, the diſpute, the better. I think it may be reduced to this ſingle queſtion, *Is man immortal, or is he not?* If he is not, all our diſputes are mere amuſements, or trials of ſkill. In this caſe, *Truth*, *Reaſon*, *Religion*, which give our diſcourſes ſuch pomp and ſolemnity, are (as will be ſhewn) mere empty ſounds, without any meaning in them. But if man is immortal, it will behove him to be very ſerious about eternal conſequences; or, in other words, to be truly religious. And this great fundamental truth, uneſtabliſhed, or unawakened, in the minds of men, is, I conceive, the *real* ſource and ſupport of all our infidelity; how remote ſoever the particular objections advanced may ſeem to be from it.

Senſible appearances affect moſt men much more than *abſtract reaſonings*, and we daily ſee *bodies* drop around us, but the *ſoul* is inviſible. The power which *inclination* has over the *judgement*, is greater than can be well conceived by thoſe who have not had an experience of it; and of what numbers is it the ſad intereſt, that ſouls ſhould not ſurvive! The heathen world confeſſed, that they rather *hoped* than firmly *believed* immortality; and how many heathens have we ſtill amongſt us! The ſacred page aſſures us, that life and immortality is brought to light by the goſpel: but by how many is the goſpel rejected or overlooked! From theſe conſiderations, and from my being, accidentally, privy to the ſentiments of ſome particular perſons, I have been long perſuaded, that moſt, if not all, our Infidels, (whatever name they take, and whatever ſcheme, for argument's ſake, and to keep themſelves in countenance, they patronize) are ſupported in their deplorable error by ſome doubt of their *immortality*, at the bottom. And I am ſatisfied, that men once thoroughly

convinced of their immortality, are not far from being Chriſtians. For it is hard to conceive, that a man fully conſcious eternal pain or happineſs will certainly be his lot, ſhould not earneſtly, and impartially, inquire after the ſureſt means of eſcaping the one, and ſecuring the other. And of ſuch an earneſt and impartial enquiry, I well know the conſequence.

Here, therefore, in proof of this moſt fundamental truth, ſome plain arguments are offered; arguments derived from principles which Infidels admit in common with believers; argumeuts, which appear to me altogether irreſiſtible; and ſuch as I am ſatisfied will have great weight with all who give themſelves the ſmall trouble of looking ſeriouſly into their own boſoms, and of obſerving, with any tolerable degree of attention, what daily paſſes round about them in the world. If ſome arguments ſhall, *here*, occur, which others have declined, they are ſubmitted, with all deference, to better judgements, in this, of all points, the moſt important. For, as to the being of a God, that is no longer diſputed; but it is undiſputed, for this reaſon only, *viz.* becauſe, where the leaſt pretence to reaſon is admitted, it muſt for ever be indiſputable. And, of conſequence, no man can be betrayed into a diſpute of that nature by *vanity*, which has a principal ſhare inanimating our modern combatants againſt other articles of our belief.

THE INFIDEL RECLAIMED.

NIGHT THE SIXTH.

SHE * (for I know not yet her name in heaven)
Not early, like *Narciſſa*, left the ſcene;
Nor ſudden, like *Philander*. What avail?
This ſeeming mitigation but enflames;
This fancy'd med'cine heightens the diſeaſe.
The longer known, the cloſer ſtill ſhe grew;
And gradual parting is a gradual death.
'Tis the grim tyrant's engine, which extorts
By tardy preſſure's ſtill-encreaſing weight,
From hardeſt hearts, confeſſion of diſtreſs.
O the long, dark approach thro' years of pain,
Death's gall'ry! (might I dare to call it ſo)
With diſmal *doubt*, and ſable *terror*, hung;
Sick *hope*'s pale lamp, its only glimm'ring ray:
There, fate my melancholy walk ordain'd,
Forbid *ſelf-love* itſelf to flatter, there.
How oft I gaz'd, prophetically ſad!
How oft I ſaw her dead, while yet in ſmiles!
In ſmiles ſhe ſunk *her* grief, to leſſen *mine*.
She ſpoke me comfort, and encreas'd my pain.
Like pow'rful armies trenching at a town,
By ſlow, and ſilent, but reſiſtleſs ſap,
In his pale progreſs gently gaining ground,
Death urg'd his deadly ſiege; in ſpite of art,
Of all the balmy bleſſings nature lends

* Referring to Night the Firſt.

To ſuccour frail humanity. Ye ſtars!
(Not now *firſt* made familiar to my ſight)
And thou, O moon! bear witneſs; many a night
He tore the pillow from beneath my head,
Ty'd down my ſore attention to the ſhock,
By ceaſeleſs depredations on a life
Dearer than that he left me. Dreadful poſt
Of obſervation, darker ev'ry hour!
Leſs dread the day that drove me to the brink,
And pointed at eternity below;
When my ſoul ſhudder'd at futurity;
When on a moment's point, th' important dye.
Of life and death ſpun doubtful, ere it fell,
And turn'd up life; my title to more woe.

But why more woe? more comfort let it be.
Nothing is dead, but *that* which wiſh'd to die;
Nothing is dead, but wretchedneſs and pain;
Nothing is dead, but what incumber'd, gall'd,
Block'd up the paſs, and barr'd from *real life*.
Where dwells *that* wiſh moſt ardent of the wiſe?
Too dark the ſun to ſee it; higheſt ſtars
Too low to reach it; *death*, great *death* alone,
O'er ſtars and ſun triumphant, lands us there.

Nor dreadful our *tranſition*; tho' the mind,
An artiſt at creating ſelf-alarms,
Rich in expedients for inquietude,
Is prone to paint it dreadful. Who can take
Death's portrait true? the tyrant never *ſat*.
Our ſketch, all random ſtrokes, conjecture all;
Cloſe ſhuts the grave, nor tells one ſingle tale.
Death, and his image riſing in the brain,
Bear faint reſemblance; never are alike;

ar ſhakes the pencil, *fancy* loves exceſs,
ark *ignorance* is laviſh of her ſhades;
nd *theſe* the formidable picture draw.
But grant the worſt; 'tis paſt; new proſpects riſe;
nd drop a veil eternal o'er her tomb.
r other views our contemplation claim;
iews that o'erpay the rigours of our life;
iews that ſuſpend our agonies in death.
rapt up in thought of *immortality*,
rapt in the ſingle, the triumphant thought!
ng life might lapſe, age unperceiv'd come on,
nd find the ſoul unfated with her theme.
nature, *proof*, *importance*, fire my ſong.
that my ſong could emulate my ſoul!
ke her, immortal. No!——the ſoul diſdains
mark ſo mean; far nobler hope inflames;
endleſs ages can outweigh an hour,
t not the *laurel*, but the *palm*, inſpire.
Thy *nature*, immortality! who knows?
nd yet who knows it not? it is but life
ſtronger thread of brighter colour ſpun,
nd ſpun for ever; dipt by cruel fate
Stygian dye, how *black*, how *brittle here!*
ow ſhort our correſpondence with the ſun!
nd, while it laſts, inglorious! our beſt deeds
ow wanting in their weight! our higheſt joys
mall cordials to ſupport us in our pain,
nd give us ſtrength to ſuffer. But how *great*
o mingle int'reſts, converſe, amities.
ith all the ſons of *reaſon*, ſcatter'd wide
hrough habitable ſpace, where-ever born,
owe'er endow'd! to live free citizens

Of univerſal nature! to lay hold
By more than feeble *faith*, on the *Supreme!*
To call Hea'n's rich unfathomable mines
(Mines, which ſupport archangels in their ſtate)
Our own! to riſe in ſcience, as in bliſs,
Initiate in the ſecrets of the ſkies!
To read creation; read its mighty plan
In the bare boſom of the Deity!
The plan, and execution, to collate!
To ſee, before each glance of piercing thought,
All cloud, all ſhadow, blown remote; and leave
No myſtery——but that of love divine,
Which liſts us on the Seraph's flaming wing,
From earth's *Alcedama*, this field of blood,
Of inward anguiſh, and of outward ill,
From darkneſs, and from duſt, to *ſuch* a ſcene!
Love's element! true joy's illuſtrious home!
From earth's ſad contraſt (now deplor'd) more fair
What exquiſite viſſitude of fate!
Bleſt abſolution of our blackeſt hour!
Lorenzo! theſe are thoughts that make man man
The wiſe illumine, aggrandize the great.
How great (while yet we tread the kindred clod,
And ev'ry moment fear to ſink beneath
The clod *we* tread; ſoon trodden by our ſons)
How great, in the wild whirl of *time*'s purſuits
To ſtop and pauſe, involv'd in high preſage,
Through the long viſto of a thouſand years,
To ſtand contemplating our diſtant ſelves,
As in a magnifying mirror ſeen,
Enlarg'd, ennobled, elevate, divine!
To propheſy our own futurities!

To gaze in thought on what all thought tranſcends!
To talk, with fellow-candidates, of joys
As far beyond conception as deſert,
Ourſelves th' aſtoniſh'd talkers and the tale!
Lorenzo! ſwells thy boſom at the thought?
The ſwell becomes thee: 'tis an honeſt pride.
Revere thyſelf:——and yet thyſelf deſpiſe.
His *nature* no man can o'er-rate; and none
Can under-rate his *merit*. Take good heed,
For there be modeſt, where thou ſhould'ſt be proud;
That almoſt univerſal error ſhun.
How *juſt* our pride, when we behold *thoſe* heights!
Not thoſe *ambition* paints in air, but thoſe
Reaſon points out, and ardent *virtue* gains;
And angels emulate; our pride how juſt!
When mount we? when theſe ſhackles caſt? when quit
The cell of the creation? this ſmall neſt,
Stuck in a corner of the univerſe,
Wrapt up in fleecy cloud, and fine-ſpun air?
Fine-ſpun to ſenſe, but groſs and feculent
To ſouls celeſtial; ſouls ordain'd to breathe
Ambroſial gales, and drink a purer ſky;
Greatly triumphant on *time*'s farther ſhore,
Where virtue reigns, enrich'd with full arrears;
While *pomp imperial* begs an alms of peace.
In empire high, or in proud ſcience deep,
Ye born of earth! on what can ye confer,
With half the dignity, with half the gain,
The guſt, the glow of rational delight,
As on *this* theme, which angels praiſe, and ſhare?
Man's fates and favours are a theme in heaven.
What wretched repetition cloys us *here!*

What periodic potions for the ſick!
Diſtemper'd bodies! and diſtemper'd minds!
In an *eternity*, what ſcenes ſhall ſtrike!
Adventures thicken! novelties ſurpriſe!
What webs of wonder ſhall unravel *there!*
What full day pour on all the paths of heaven,
And light th' Almighty's foot-ſteps in the deep!
How ſhall the bleſſed day of our diſcharge
Unwind, at once, the labyrinths of fate,
And ſtraighten its inextricable maze!
If inextinguiſhable thirſt in man
To know; how rich, how full, our banquet *there!*
There, not the *moral* world alone unfolds;
The world *material*, lately ſeen in ſhades,
And, in thoſe ſhades, by fragments only ſeen,
And ſeen thoſe fragments by the *lab'ring* eye.
Unbroken then, illuſtrious, and entire,
Its ample ſphere, its univerſal frame,
In full dimſions, ſwells to the ſurvey;
And enters, at one glance, the raviſh'd ſight.
From ſome ſuperior point (where, who can tell?
Suffice it, 'tis a point where gods reſide)
How ſhall the ſtranger man's illumin'd eye,
In the vaſt ocean of unbounded ſpace,
Behold an infinite of floating worlds
Divide the chryſtal waves of ether pure
In endleſs voyage, without port? the *leaſt*
Of theſe diſſeminated orbs, how great?
Great as they are, what numbers theſe ſurpaſs,
Huge, as *Leviathan*, to that ſmall race,
Thoſe twinkling multitudes of little life,
He ſwallows unperceiv'd! *Stupendous* theſe?

Yet what are theſe ſtupendous to the *whole!*
As particles, as atoms, ill-perceiv'd;
As circulating globules in our veins;
So vaſt the plan: fecundity divine?
Exub'rant ſource! perhaps, I wrong thee ſtill.
If admiration is a ſource of joy,
What tranſport hence? yet this the leaſt in heaven.
What *this* to that illuſtrious robe *He* wears,
Who toſs'd this maſs of wonders from his hand,
A ſpecimen, an earneſt of his pow'r?
'Tis to *that glory*, whence all glory flows,
As the mead's meaneſt flow'ret to the ſun,
Which gave it birth. But what, this ſun of heaven?
This bliſs ſupreme, of the ſupremely bleſt?
Death, only death, the queſtion can reſolve.
By death, cheap-bought th' ideas of our joy;
The *bare* ideas! ſolid happineſs
So diſtant from its ſhadow chac'd below.
And chace we ſtill the phantom thro' the fire,
O'er bog, and brake, and precipice, till death?
And toil we ſtill for ſublunary pay?
Defy the dangers of the field, and flood,
Or, ſpider-like, ſpin out our precious all,
Our *more* than vitals ſpin (if no regard
To great futurity) in curious webs
Of ſubtile thought, and exquiſite deſign,
(Fine net-work of the brain!) to catch a fly?
The momentary buz of vain renown!
A *name*, a mortal immortality!
Or (meaner ſtill!) inſtead of graſping air,
For ſordid *lucre* plunge we in the mire?
Drudge, ſweat, thro' ev'ry ſhame, for ev'ry gain,

For vile contaminating traſh; throw up
Our hope in heav'n, our dignity with man?
And deify the dirt, matur'd to gold?
Ambition, *av'rice*; the two *dæmons* theſe,
Which goad thro' ev'ry ſlough our human herd,
Hard-travell'd from the cradle to the grave.
How low the wretches ſtoop! how ſteep they climb!
Theſe *daemons* burn mankind; but moſt poſſeſs
Lorenzo's boſom, and turn out the ſkies.
Is it in *time* to hide *eternity!*
And why not in an atom on the ſhore,
To cover ocean? or a mote the ſun?
Glory, and *wealth!* have they this blinding pow'r!
What if to *them* I prove *Lorenzo* blind?
Would it ſurpriſe thee? be thou then ſurpris'd;
Thou *neither* know'ſt: their nature learn from me.
Mark well, as foreign as *theſe ſubjects* ſeem,
What cloſe connection ties them to my theme.
Firſt, what is *true* ambition? The purſuit
Of glory, nothing *leſs* than man can ſhare.
Were they as vain, as gaudy-minded man,
As flatulent with fumes of ſelf-applauſe,
Their arts and conqueſts *animals* might boaſt,
And claim their *laurel* crowns as well as we;
But not *celeſtial*. *Here* we ſtand *alone*;
As in our form, diſtinct, pre-eminent;
If *prone* in thought, our ſtature is our ſhame,
And man ſhould bluſh, his forehead meets the ſkies.
The *viſible* and *preſent* are for brutes,
A ſlender portion! and a narrow bound!
Theſe *reaſon*, with an energy divine,
O'erleaps; and claims the *future* and *unſeen*,

The vaſt unſeen! the future fathomleſs!
When the great ſoul buoys up to this high point,
Leaving groſs *nature*'s ſediments below,
Then, and then only, *Adam*'s offspring quits
The ſage and hero of the fields and woods,
Aſſerts his rank, and riſes into man.
This is ambition: this is *human* fire.'

Can *parts* or *place* (two bold pretenders!) make
Lorenzo great, and pluck him from the throng!
Genius and *art*, ambition's boaſted wings,
Our boaſt but ill deſerve. A feeble aid!
Dedalian enginery! if theſe alone
Aſſiſt our flight, *fame*'s flight is *glory*'s fall.
Heart-merit wanting, mount we ne'er ſo high,
Our height is but the gibbet of our name.
A celebrated wretch when I behold,
When I behold a genius bright, and baſe,
Of tow'ring talents, and terreſtrial aims;
Methinks I ſee, as thrown from her high ſphere,
The glorious fragments of a ſoul immortal,
With rubbiſh mixt, and glitt'ring in the duſt.
Struck at the ſplendid, melancholy ſight,
At once *compaſſion* ſoft, and *envy*, riſe——
But wherefore envy? talents angel-bright,
If wanting worth, are ſhining inſtruments
In falſe ambition's hand, to finiſh faults
Illuſtrious, and give infamy renown.

Great *ill* is an atchievement of great *pow'rs*.
Plain ſenſe but rarely leads us far aſtray.
Reaſon the means, *affections* chuſe our end;
Means have no merit, if our end amiſs.
If wrong our hearts, our heads are right in vain,

What is a *Pelham's* head, to *Pelham's* heart!
Hearts are proprietors of all applauſe.
Right ends, *and* means, make wiſdom: worldly-wiſe
Is but *half*-witted, at its higheſt praiſe.
Let *genius* then deſpair to make thee great;
Nor flatter *ſtation*: what is ſtation high?
'Tis a proud mendicant; it boaſts, and begs;
It begs an alms of homage from the throng,
And oft the throng denies its charity.
Monarchs, and miniſters, are awful names;
Whoever wear them, challenge our devoir.
Religion, public order, both exact
External homage, and a ſupple knee,
To beings pompouſly ſet up, to ſerve
The meaneſt ſlave: *all more* is merit's due,
Her ſacred and inviolable right;
Nor ever paid the *monarch*, but the *man*.
Our hearts ne'er bow but to ſuperior *worth*;
Nor ever fail of their allegiance there.
Fools, indeed, drop the *man* in their account,
And vote the *mantle* into majeſty.
Let the *ſmall ſavage* boaſt his ſilver fur;
His royal robe unborrowed, and unbought,
His *own*, deſcending fairly from his ſires.
Shall man be proud to wear *his* livery,
And ſouls in *ermin* ſcorn a ſoul without?
Can *place* or leſſen us, or aggrandize?
Pygmies are pygmies ſtill, tho' perch'd on *Alps*;
And pyramids are pyramids in vales.
Each man makes his own ſtature, builds himſelf:
Virtue alone out-builds the *pyramids*;
Her monuments ſhall laſt, when *Egypt's* fall.

Of theſe ſure truths doſt thou demand the cauſe?
The cauſe is lodg'd in *immortality*.
Hear, and aſſent. Thy boſom burns for power;
What ſtation charms thee? I'll inſtall thee there;
'Tis thine. And art thou greater than *before?*
Then thou before waſt ſomething *leſs* than man.
Has thy new poſt betray'd thee into pride?
That treach'rous pride betrays thy dignity;
That pride defames humanity, and calls
The being mean, which *ſtaffs* or *ſtrings* can raiſe.
That pride, like hooded hawks, in darkneſs ſoars,
From blindneſs bold, and tow'ring to the ſkies:
'Tis born of *ignorance*, which knows not man;
An angel's ſecond; nor his ſecond long.
A *Nero* quitting his imperial throne,
And courting glory from the tinkling ſtring,
But faintly ſhadows an immortal ſoul,
With empire's ſelf, to pride, or rapture, fir'd,
If nobler motives miniſter no cure,
Ev'n vanity forbids thee to be vain.
High worth is elevated place: 'tis more;
It makes the poſt ſtand candidate for thee;
Makes more than monarchs, makes an honeſt man;
Tho' no *exchequer* it commands, 'tis wealth;
And tho' it wears no *ribband*, 'tis renown;
Renown, that would not quit thee, tho' diſgrac'd,
Nor leave thee pendent on a maſter's ſmile.
Other ambition *nature* interdicts;
Nature proclaims it moſt abſurd in man,
By pointing at his origin, and end;
Milk, and a ſwathe, *at firſt*, his whole demand;
His whole domain, *at laſt*, a turf, or ſtone;

To whom, *between*, a world may ſeem too ſmall.
Souls *truly* great dart forward on the wing
Of *juſt* ambition, to the grand reſult,
The *curtain*'s fall; *there*, ſee the buſkin'd chief
Unſhod behind this momentary ſcene;
Reduc'd to his own ſtature, low or high,
As vice, or virtue, ſinks him, or ſublimes;
And laugh at this fantaſtic mummery,
This antic prelude of groteſque events,
Where dwarfs are often ſtilted, and betray
A littleneſs of ſoul, by worlds o'er-run,
And nations laid in blood. Dread ſacrifice
To *Chriſtian* pride! which had with horror ſhock'd
The darkeſt *Pagans*, offer'd to their gods.
O thou *moſt Chriſtian* enemy to peace!
Again in arms? again provoking fate?
That prince, and that alone, is truly great,
Who draws the ſword reluctant, gladly ſheathes;
On empire builds what empire far outweighs,
And makes his throne a ſcaffold to the ſkies.
Why *this* ſo rare? becauſe forgot of all
The day of death; that venerable day,
Which ſits as judge; that day, which ſhall pronounce
On all our days, abſolve them, or condemn.
Lorenzo, never ſhut thy thought againſt it;
Be *levees* ne'er ſo full, afford it room,
And give it audience in the *cabinet*.
That friend conſulted, flatteries apart,
Will tell thee fair, if thou art great, or mean.
To doat on aught may leave us, or be left,
Is that *ambition?* then let flames *deſcend*,
Point to the centre their inverted ſpires,

And learn humiliation from a ſoul,
Which boaſts her lineage from celeſtial fire.
Yet *theſe* are they the world pronounces wiſe;
The world, which cancels nature's right and wrong,
And caſts *new* wiſdom: ev'n the grave man lends
His ſolemn face, to countenance the coin.
Wiſdom for parts, is madneſs for the whole.
This ſtamps the paradox, and gives us leave
To call the wiſeſt weak, the richeſt poor,
The moſt ambitious, unambitious, mean;
In triumph mean; and abject on a throne.
Nothing can make it leſs than mad in man,
To put forth all his ardor, all his art,
And give his ſoul her full unbounded flight,
But reaching *him*, who gave her wings to fly.
When blind ambition quite miſtakes her road,
And downward pores, for that which ſhines above,
Subſtantial happineſs, and true renown;
Then, like an idiot gazing on the brook,
We leap at ſtars, and faſten in the mud;
At glory graſp, and ſink in infamy.
Ambition! pow'rful ſource of good and ill!
Thy ſtrength in man, like length of wing in birds,
When diſengag'd from earth, with greater eaſe,
And ſwifter flight, tranſports us to the ſkies:
By toys entangled, or in guilt bemir'd,
It turns a curſe; it is our chain, and ſcourge,
In this dark dungeon, where confin'd we ly,
Cloſe-grated by the ſordid bars of *ſenſe*;
All proſpect of eternity ſhut out;
And, but for *execution*, ne'er ſet free.
With error in *ambition* juſtly charg'd,

Find we *Lorenzo* wiſer in his *wealth?*
What if thy rental I reform? and draw
An inventary *new*, to ſet thee right?
Where thy *true* treaſure? gold ſays, "not in me,"
And, "not in me," the diamond. Gold is poor;
India's inſolvent: ſeek it in thyſelf;
Seek in thy naked ſelf, and find it there:
In *being* ſo deſcended, form'd, endow'd;
Sky-born, ſky-guided, ſky-returning race!
Erect, immortal, rational, divine!
In *ſenſes* which inherit earth and heavens;
Enjoy the various riches *nature* yields;
Far nobler; *give* the riches they enjoy;
Give taſte to fruits, and harmony to groves;
Their radiant beams to gold, and gold's bright fire;
Take in, at once, the landſcape of the world,
At a ſmall inlet, which a grain might cloſe,
And half create the wond'rous world they ſee.
Our *ſenſes*, as our *reaſon*, are divine.
But for the magic organ's pow'rful charm,
Earth were a rude uncolour'd chaos ſtill.
Objects are but th' occaſion, ours th' *exploit;*
Ours is the cloth, the pencil, and the paint,
Which nature's admirable picture draws;
And beautifies creation's ample dome.
Like *Milton*'s *Eve*, when gazing on the lake,
Man makes the matchleſs image, man admires.
Say then, ſhall man, his thoughts all ſent abroad,
Superior wonders in himſelf forgot,
His admiration waſte on objects round,
When Heav'n makes him the ſoul of all he ſees?
Abſurd! not rare! ſo great, ſo mean is man.

What wealth in *ſenſes* ſuch as theſe! what wealth
In *fancy* fir'd to form a fairer ſcene
Than *ſenſe* ſurveys! in *mem'ry*'s firm record,
Which, ſhould it periſh, could this world recal,
From the dark ſhadows of o'erwhelming years!
In colours freſh, originally bright
Preſerve its portrait, and report its fate!
What wealth in *intellect*, that ſov'reign power!
Which *ſenſe* and *fancy* ſummons to the bar;
Interrogates, approves, or reprehends;
And from the maſs thoſe *underlings* import,
From their materials, ſifted and refin'd,
And in *truth*'s balance accurately weigh'd,
Forms *art*, and *ſcience*, *government*, and *law*;
The ſolid baſis, and the beauteous frame,
The vitals, and the grace of *civil* life!
And *manners* (ſad exception!) ſet aſide,
Strikes out, with maſter-hand, a copy fair
Of *his* idea, whoſe indulgent thought
Long, long ere chaos teem'd, plann'd *human* bliſs.
What *wealth* in ſouls that ſoar, dive, range around,
Diſdaining limit, or from place, or time;
And hear at once, in thought extenſive, hear
Th' Almighty *fiat*, and the *trumpet's ſound?*
Bold, on creation's outſide walk, and view
What was, and is, and *more* than e'er ſhall be;
Commanding, with omnipotence of thought,
Creations new, in fancy's field to riſe!
Souls that can graſp whate'er th' Almighty made,
And wander wild, through things impoſſible!
What *wealth*, in *faculties* of endleſs growth,
In quenchleſs *paſſions* violent to crave,

In *liberty* to chuſe, in *power* to reach,
And in *duration* (how thy riches riſe!)
Duration to *perpetuate*——boundleſs bliſs?
Aſk you, what *power* reſides in feeble man
That bliſs to gain? is *virtue*, then unknown!
Virtue, our preſent peace, our future prize.
Man's unprecarious, natural eſtate,
Improvable at will, in virtue lyes;
Its tenure ſure; its income is divine.
High-built abundance, heap on heap, for what?
To breed new wants, and beggar us the more;
Then, make a richer ſcramble for the throng?
Soon as this feeble pulſe, which leaps ſo long
Almoſt by miracle, is tir'd with play,
Like rubbiſh from diſploding engines thrown,
Our magazines of hoarded trifles fly;
Fly diverſe; fly to foreigners, to foes;
New maſters court, and call the former fool,
(How juſtly!) for dependence on their ſtay.
Wide ſcatter, firſt, our play-things, then, our duſt.
Doſt court abundance for the ſake of peace?
Learn, and lament, thy ſelf-defeated ſcheme:
Riches enable to be richer ſtill;
And, *richer ſtill*, what mortal can reſiſt?
Thus wealth (a cruel taſkmaſter!) enjoins
New toils, ſucceeding toils, an endleſs train!
And murders peace, which taught it firſt to ſhine.
The poor are *half* as wretched, as the rich;
Whoſe proud and painful privilege it is,
At once, to bear a double load of woe;
To feel the ſtings of *envy*, and of *want*,
Outrageous want! both *Indies* cannot cure.

A competence is vital to content.
Much wealth is corpulence, if not diſeaſe;
Sick, or incumber'd, is our happineſs.
A *competence* is all we can *enjoy*.
O be content, where Heav'n can give no more!
More, like a flaſh of water from a lock,
Quickens our ſpirits movement for an hour;
But ſoon its force is ſpent, nor riſe our joys
Above our native temper's common ſtream.
Hence diſappointment lurks in ev'ry prize,
As bees in flow'rs; and ſtings us with ſucceſs.
The rich man, who denies it, proudly feigns;
Nor knows the wiſe are privy to the lie.
Much learning ſhews how little mortals *know*;
Much wealth, how little worldlings can *enjoy*:
At beſt, it babies us with endleſs toys,
And keeps us children till we drop to duſt.
As monkeys at a mirror ſtand amaz'd,
They fail to find, what they ſo plainly ſee;
Thus men, in ſhining riches, ſee the face
Of happineſs, nor know it is a ſhade;
But gaze, and touch, and peep, and peep again,
And wiſh, and wonder it is abſent ſtill.
How few can reſcue opulence from want!
Who lives to *nature*, rarely can be poor;
Who lives to *fancy*, never can be rich.
Poor is the man in debt; the man of gold,
In debt to *fortune*, trembles at her pow'r.
The man of *reaſon* ſmiles at her and death.
O what a patrimony, this? a *being*
Of ſuch inherent ſtrength and majeſty,
Not worlds poſſeſt can raiſe it; worlds deſtroy'd

Can't injure; which holds on its glorious courſe,
When thine, O *nature!* ends; too bleſt to mourn
Creation's obſequies. What treaſure, *this!*
The *monarch* is a beggar to the man.

Immortal! ages paſt, yet nothing gone!
Morn without eve! a race without a goal!
Unſhorten'd by progreſſion infinite!
Futurity for ever future! life
Beginning ſtill, where computation ends!
'Tis the deſcription of a *Deity!*
'Tis the deſcription of the *meaneſt ſlave!*
The meaneſt ſlave dares then *Lorenzo* ſcorn?
The meaneſt ſlave thy *ſov'reign* glory ſhares.
Proud youth! faſtidious of the *lower* world!
Man's *lawful* pride includes humility;
Stoops to the loweſt; is too great to find
Inferiors; all immortal; brothers all!
Proprietors *eternal* of thy love.

Immortal! what can ſtrike the *ſenſe* ſo ſtrong,
As this the *ſoul?* it thunders to the thought;
Reaſon amazes; *gratitude* o'erwhelms!
No more we ſlumber on the brink of fate;
Rous'd at the ſound, th' exulting ſoul aſcends,
And breathes her native air; an air that feeds
Ambitions high, and fans ethereal fires;
Quick-kindles all that is divine within us;
Nor leaves one loit'ring thought beneath the ſtars.
Has not *Lorenzo*'s boſom caught the flame?
Immortal! were but *one* immortal, how
Would others envy! how would thrones adore!
Becauſe 'tis common, is the bleſſing loſt?
How *this* ties up the bounteous hand of Heaven!

O vain, vain, vain! all elſe: *eternity!*
A glorious, and a *needful* refuge *that*,
From vile impriſonment in abject views.
'Tis *immortality*, 'tis that alone,
Amid life's *pains*, *abaſements*, *emptineſs*,
The ſoul can *comfort*, *elevate*, and *fill*.
That only, and that amply, this performs;
Lifts us above life's pains, her joys above;
Their terror *thoſe*: and *theſe* their luſtre loſe;
Eternity depending covers all;
Eternity depending all atchieves;
Sets earth at diſtance; caſts her into ſhades;
Blends her diſtinctions; abrogates her pow'rs;
The low, the lofty, joyous, and ſevere,
Fortune's dread frowns, and faſcinating ſmiles,
Make one promiſcuous and neglected heap,
The man beneath; If I may call him man,
Whom *immortality*'s full force inſpires.
Nothing terreſtrial touches his high thought;
Suns ſhine unſeen, and thunders roll unheard,
By minds quite conſcious of their high deſcent,
Their preſent province, and their future prize;
Divinely darting upward every wiſh,
Warm on the wing, in glorious *abſence* loſt.
Doubt you this truth? why labours your belief!
If earth's whole orb by ſome due-diſtanc'd eye
Were ſeen at once, her tow'ring *Alps* would ſink,
And level'd *Atlas* leave an even ſphere.
Thus *earth*, and all that earthly minds admire,
Is ſwallowed in *eternity*'s vaſt round.
To that ſtupendous view, when ſouls awake,
So large of late, ſo mountainous to man,

Time's toys ſubſide; and *equal* all below.
Enthuſiaſtic, this? then all are weak,
But rank enthuſiaſts. To this god-like height
Some ſouls have ſoar'd; or martyrs ne'er had bled.
And all *may* do, what has by *man* been done.
Who, beaten by theſe ſublunary ſtorms,
Boundleſs, interminable joys can weigh,
Unraptur'd, unexalted, uninflam'd?
What ſlave *unbleſt*, who from to-morrow's dawn
Expects an empire? he forgets his chain,
And, throned in thought, his *abſent* ſceptre waves.
And what a ſceptre waits us! what a throne!
Her own immenſe appointments to compute,
Or comprehend her high prerogatives,
In this her dark minority, how toils,
How vainly pants, the human ſoul divine?
Too great the bounty ſeems for earthly joy;
What heart but *trembles* at ſo ſtrange a bliſs?
In ſpite of all the truths the muſe has ſung,
Ne'er to be priz'd enough! enough revolv'd!
Are there, who wrap the world ſo cloſe about them,
They ſee no further than the clouds, and dance
On heedleſs vanity's phantaſtic toe,
Till, ſtumbling at a ſtraw, in their career,
Headlong they plung, where end both dance and ſong?
Are there, *Lorenzo?* is it poſſible?
Are there on earth (let me not call them men)
Who lodge a ſoul immortal in their breaſts;
Unconſcious as the mountain of its ore;
Or rock of its ineſtimable gem?
When rocks ſhall melt, and mountains vaniſh, *then*
Shall know their treaſure; treaſure, *then*, no more.

Are there (ſtill more amazing!) who reſiſt
The riſing thought? who ſmother, in its birth,
The glorious truth? who ſtruggle to be brutes?
Who thro' this boſom-barrier burſt their way?
And, with revers'd ambition, ſtrive to ſink?
Who labour downwards thro' th' oppoſing pow'rs
Of inſtinct, reaſon, and the world againſt them,
To diſmal hopes, and ſhelter in the ſhock
Of endleſs night; night darker than the grave's?
Who fight the proofs of immortality?
With horrid zeal, and execrable arts,
Work all their engines, level their black fires,
To blot from man *this* attribute divine,
(Than vital blood far dearer to the wiſe),
Blaſphemers, and rank atheiſts to *themſelves?*
To contradict them, ſee all nature riſe!
What object, what event, the moon beneath,
But argues, or endears, an after-ſcene?
To *reaſon* proves, or weds it to *deſire?*
All things proclaim it *needful*; ſome advance
One precious ſtep beyond, and prove it *ſure.*
A thouſand arguments ſwarm round my pen.
From *heaven*, and *earth*, and *man*. Indulge a few,
By nature, as her *common habit*, worn;
So *preſſing* providence, a truth to teach,
Which truth untaught, all other truths were vain.
Thou! whoſe all-providential eye ſurveys,
Whoſe hands directs, whoſe Spirit fills and warms
Creation, and holds empire far beyond!
Eternity's inhabitant auguſt!
Of two eternities amazing Lord!
One paſt, ere man's, or angel's had begun;

Aid! while I reſcue from the foe's aſſault
Thy glorious immortality in *man*:
A theme for ever, and for all, of weight,
Of moment infinite! but reliſh'd moſt
By thoſe, who love thee moſt, who moſt adore.
Nature, thy daughter, ever-changing birth,
Of thee the Great *Immutable*, to man
Speaks wiſdom; is his oracle ſupreme;
And he who moſt conſults her, is moſt wiſe.
Lorenzo, to this heavenly *Delphos* haſte;
And come back all immortal; all divine:
Look nature through; 'tis *revolution* all;
All change, no death. Day follows night; and night
The dying day; ſtars riſe, and ſet, and riſe;
Earth takes th' example. See, the *ſummer* gay,
With her green chaplet, and ambroſial flowers,
Droops into palid *autumn*: *winter* grey,
Horrid with froſt, and turbulent with ſtorm,
Blows *autumn*, and his golden fruits away:
Then melts into the *ſpring*: ſoft ſpring, with breath
Favonian, from warm chambers of the ſouth,
Recals the *firſt*. All, to reflouriſh, fades.
As in a wheel, all ſinks, to re-aſcend.
Emblems of man, who paſſes, not expires.
With this minute diſtinction, emblems juſt,
Nature revolves, but man *advances*; both
Eternal, *that* a circle, *this* a line:
That gravitates, *this* ſoars. Th' aſpiring ſoul,
Ardent, and *tremulous*, like flame, aſcends;
Zeal and *humility* her wings, to heaven.
The world of matter, with its various forms,
All dies into new life. Life born from death

Rolls the vaſt maſs, and ſhall for ever roll.
No ſingle atom, once in being, loſt,
With change of counſel charges the Moſt high.
What hence infers *Lorenzo?* Can it be?
Matter immortal? and ſhall *ſpirit* die?
Above the nobler, ſhall leſs noble riſe?
Shall man alone, for whom all elſe revives,
No reſurrection know? ſhall man alone,
Imperial man! be ſown in barren ground,
Leſs privileg'd than grain, on which he feeds?
Is man, in whom alone is pow'r to prize
The bliſs of being, or with previous pain
Deplore its period, by the ſpleen of fate,
Severely doom'd *death*'s ſingle unredeem'd?
If nature's *revolution* ſpeaks aloud,
In her *gradation*, hear her louder ſtill.
Look nature thro', 'tis neat *gradation* all.
By what minute degrees her ſcale aſcends!
Each middle nature join'd at each extreme,
To that above it join'd to that beneath.
Parts, into parts, reciprocally ſhot,
Abhore divorce: what love of union reigns!
Here, *dormant* matter waits a call to life;
Half-life, half-death, join there: here, life and ſenſe;
There, ſenſe from reaſon ſteals a glimm'ring ray;
Reaſon ſhines out in man. But how preſerv'd
The chain unbroken upward, to the realms
Of incorporeal life; thoſe realms of bliſs,
Where death hath no dominion? Grant a make
Half mortal, half-immortal; earthly, part;
And part, ethereal; grant the ſoul of man
Eternal; or in man the ſeries ends.

Wide yawns the gap; connection is no more;
Check'd *reaſon* halts; her next ſtep wants ſupport;
Striving to climb, ſhe tumbles from her ſcheme:
A ſcheme, *analogy*, pronounc'd ſo true;
Analogy, man's ſureſt guide below.
Thus far, *all nature* calls on thy belief.
And will *Lorenzo*, careleſs of the call,
Falſe atteſtation on all nature charge,
Rather than violate his league with death;
Renounce his reaſon, rather than renounce
The duſt belov'd, and run the *riſque* of heaven;
O what indignity to deathleſs ſouls!
What treaſon to the majeſty of man?
Of man *immortal!* hear the loſty ſtile:
"If ſo decreed, th' Almighty Will be done.
"Let earth diſſolve, yon pond'rous orbs deſcend,
"And grind us into duſt: the *ſoul* is ſafe;
"The *man* emerges; mounts above the wreck,
"As tow'ring flame from *natare*'s fun'ral pyre;
"O'er devaſtation, as a gainer ſmiles;
"His charter, his inviolable rights,
"Well pleas'd to learn from thunder's impotence,
"Death's pointleſs darts, and hell's defeated ſtorms.
But theſe chimeras touch not thee, *Lorenzo!*
The glories of the world thy ſeven fold *ſhield.*
Other ambition than of crowns in air,
And ſuperlunary felicities,
Thy boſom warm. I'll cool it, if I can;
And turn thoſe glories that inchant, againſt thee.
What ties thee to *this* life, proclaims the *next.*
If wiſe, the cauſe that wounds thee is thy cure.
Come, my *ambitious!* let us mount together;

(To mount *Lorenzo* never can refuſe);
And from the clouds, where pride delights to dwell,
Look down on earth.—What ſeeſt thou? wond'rous things!
Terreſtrial wonders that eclipſe the ſkies.
What length of labour'd lands! what loaded ſeas!
Loaded by man, for pleaſure, wealth, or war:
Seas, winds, and planets, into ſervice brought,
His art acknowledge, and promote his ends.
Nor can th' eternal rocks his will withſtand;
What levell'd mountains! and what lifted vales!
O'er vales, and mountains, ſumptuous cities ſwell,
And gild our landſcape with their glitt'ring ſpires.
Some 'mid the wond'ring waves majeſtic riſe;
And *Neptune* holds a mirror to their charms.
Far greater ſtill! (what cannot mortal might?)
See, wide dominions raviſh'd from the deep!
The narrow deep with indignation foams.
Or ſouthward turn; to *delicate*, and *grand*,
The finer arts there ripen in the ſun.
How the tall temples, as to meet their gods,
Aſcend the ſkies! the proud triumphal arch
Shews us half heav'n beneath its ample bend.
High thro' mid air, *here*, ſtreams are taught to flow;
Whole rivers *there*, laid by in baſons ſleep
Here, plains turn ocean: *there*, vaſt oceans join
Thro' kingdoms channell'd deep from ſhore to ſhore;
And chang'd creation takes its face from man.
Beats thy brave breaſt for formidable ſcenes,
Where fame and empire wait upon the ſword?
See fields in blood; hear naval thunders riſe;
Britannia's voice! that awes the world to peace.

How yon enormous mole projecting breaks
The mid-ſea, furious waves! their roar amidſt,
Out-ſpeaks the Deity, and ſays, "O main!
"Thus far, no farther: *new* reſtraints obey."
Earth's diſembowel'd! meaſur'd are the ſkies!
Stars are detected in their deep receſs!
Creation widens! vanquiſh'd *nature* yields!
Her ſecrets are extorted! *art* prevails!
What monuments of genius, ſpirit, pow'r!
And now, *Lorenzo!* raptur'd at this ſcene,
Whoſe glories render heav'n ſuperfluous! ſay,
Whoſe footſteps theſe?—*immortals* have been here.
Could leſs than ſouls immortal this have done?
Earth's cover'd o'er with proofs of ſouls immortal;
And proofs of immortality *forgot*.
To flatter thy grand foible, I confeſs,
Theſe are *ambition*'s works; and theſe are great:
But *this*, the leaſt immortal ſouls can do;
Tranſcend them all—But what can theſe tranſcend?
Doſt taſk me, what?—one ſigh for the *diſtreſt*.
What then for *infidels?* a *deeper* ſigh.
'Tis *moral grandeur* makes the mighty man:
How *little* they, who think aught *great* below!
All our ambitions death defeats, but one;
And that it crowns—Here ceaſe we: but, ere long,
More pow'rful *proof* ſhall take the field againſt thee,
Stronger than death, and ſmiling at the tomb.

NIGHT THE SEVENTH.

BEING THE

SECOND PART

OF THE

INFIDEL RECLAIMED.

CONTAINING

The NATURE, PROOF, and IMPORTANCE

OF

IMMORTALITY.

PREFACE.

AS we are at war with the power, it were well if we were at war with the manners of *France*. A land of *levity*, is a land of *guilt*. A *ſerious mind* is the native ſoil of every virtue; and the ſingle character that does true honour to mankind. The *ſoul's immortality* has been the favourite theme with the *ſerious* of all ages. Nor is it ſtrange: it is a ſubject by far the moſt intereſting and important that can enter the mind of man. Of higheſt moment this ſubject always was, and always *will be*. Yet this its higheſt moment ſeems to admit of *increaſe*, at this day; a ſort of *occaſional* importance is ſuperadded to the *natural* weight of it; if that opinion which is advanced in the Preface to the preceding *Night* be juſt. It is there ſuppoſed, that all our *Infidels*, whatever ſcheme, for argument's ſake, and to keep themſelves in countenance, they patronize, are betrayed into this deplorable error, by ſome doubt of their *immortality*, at the bottom. And the more I conſider this point, the more am I perſuaded of the truth of that opinion. Tho' the diſtruſt of a *futurity* is a ſtrange error; yet it is an error into which *bad* men may *naturally* be diſtreſſed. For it is impoſſible to bid defiance to final ruin, without ſome refuge in imagination, ſome preſumption of eſcape. And what preſumption is there? there are but two in nature; but two, within the compaſs of human thought. And theſe are,—That either God *will* not, or *can* not puniſh. Conſidering the divine attributes, the *firſt* is too groſs to be digeſted by our ſtrongeſt wiſhes. And ſince *omnipotence* is as much a divine attribute as *holineſs*, that GOD *cannot* puniſh, is as abſurd a ſuppoſition as the former. GOD certainly can puniſh as long as wicked men exiſt. In non-exiſtence, therefore, is their only refuge; and, conſequently, non-exiſtence is their ſtrongeſt wiſh. And ſtrong wiſhes have a ſtrange influence on our opinions; they biaſs the judgment in a manner, almoſt, incredible. And ſince on *this*

member of their *alternative*, there are ſome very ſmall *appearances* in their favour, and none at all on the *other*, they catch at this reed, they lay hold on this chimera, to ſave themſelves from the ſhock and horror of an *immediate*, and *abſolute*, deſpair.

On reviewing my ſubject, by the light which *this* argument, and others of like tendency, threw upon it, I was more inclined, than ever, to purſue it, as it appeared to me to ſtrike directly at the main root of *all* our infidelity. In the following pages, it is, accordingly, purſued at large; and ſome arguments for immortality, new (at leaſt to me) are ventured on in them. There alſo the writer has made an attempt to ſet the groſs abſurdities and horrors of *annihilation* in a fuller and more affecting view, than is (I think) to be met with elſewhere.

The gentlemen, for whoſe ſake this attempt was chiefly made, profeſs great admiration for the wiſdom of heathen antiquity: what pity 'tis they are not ſincere! if they were ſincere, how would it mortify them to conſider. With what contempt and abhorrence their notions would have been received by *thoſe* whom they ſo much admire! what degree of contempt and abhorrence would fall to their ſhare, may be conjectured by the following matter of fact (in my opinion) extremely memorable. Of all their heathen worthies, *Socrates* ('tis well known) was the moſt guarded, diſpaſſionate, and compoſed: yet this great maſter of temper was angry: and angry at his laſt hour! and angry with his friend! and angry for what deſerved acknowledgement! angry, for a right and tender inſtance of true friendſhip towards him. Is not this ſurpriſing? what could be the cauſe? the cauſe was for his honour! 'twas a truly noble, though, perhaps, a too punctilious, regard for *immortality:* for his friend aſking him, with ſuch an affectionate concern as became a friend, "Where he ſhould depoſit his remains?" it was reſented by *Socrates*, as implying a diſhonourable ſuppoſition, that he could be ſo mean, as to have regard for any thing, even in himſelf, that was *not* IMMORTAL.

This fact well conſidered, would make our Infidels withdraw their admiration from *Socrates*; or make them endeavour, by their imitation of this illuſtrious example, to ſhare his glory; and, conſequently, it would incline them to peruſe the following pages with candor and impartiality, which is all I deſire, and that for their ſakes; for I am perſuaded, that an unprejudiſed Infidel muſt, neceſſarily, receive ſome advantageous impreſſions from them.

July 7th, 1744.

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THE INFIDEL RECLAIMED.

NIGHT THE SEVENTH.

HEAV'N gives the needful, but neglected, call.
What day, what hour, but knocks at human hearts,
To wake the ſoul to ſenſe of future ſcenes?
Deaths ſtand, like *Mercuries*, in ev'ry way;
And kindly point us to our journey's end.
Pope, who couldſt make immortals! art thou dead?
I give thee joy: nor will I take my leave,
So ſoon to follow. Man but dives to death;
Dives from the ſun, in fairer day to riſe;
The grave, his ſubterranean road to bliſs.
Yes, infinite indulgence plann'd it ſo;
Thro' various parts our glorious ſtory runs;
Time gives the preface, *endleſs age* unrols
The volume (ne'er unroll'd) of human fate.
This, *earth* and *ſkies* * already have proclaim'd.
The world's a prophecy of worlds to come;
And who, what GOD fortels (who ſpeaks in *things*,
Still louder than in *words*) ſhall dare deny
If *nature*'s arguments appear too weak,
Turn a new leaf, and ſtronger read in *man*.
If man ſleeps on, untaught by what he *ſees*,
Can he prove infidel to what he *feels*?
He, whoſe blind thought futurity denies,
Unconſcious bears, *Bellerophon!* like thee,

* Night the Sixth.

His own indictment; he condemns himself;
Who reads his bosom, reads immortal life;
Or, *nature*, there, imposing on her sons,
Has written fables; man was made a *lie*.
Why *discontent* for ever harbour'd there?
Incurable consumption of our peace!
Resolve me, why, thy *cottager*, and *king*,
He whom sea-sever'd realms obey, and he
Who steals his whole dominion from the waste,
Repelling winter-blasts with mud and straw,
Disquieted alike, draw sigh for sigh,
In fate so distant, in complaint so near?
Is it, that things *terrestrial* can't content?
Deep in rich pasture, will thy flocks complain?
Not so; but to their master is deny'd
To share their sweet *serene*. Man ill at ease,
In this, not *his own* place, this foreign field,
Where nature fodders him with other food,
Than was ordain'd his cravings to suffice,
Poor in abundance, famish'd at a feast,
Sighs on for something *more*, when *most* enjoy'd.
Is Heav'n then kinder to thy flocks than thee?
Not so; thy pasture richer, but remote;
In part, remote; for that remoter part
Man bleats from *instinct*, tho', perhaps, debauch'd
By *sense*, his *reason* sleeps, nor dreams the cause.
The cause how obvious, when his reason wakes!
His grief is but his grandeur in disguise;
And discontent is *immortality*.
Shall sons of ether, shall the blood of Heav'n,
Set up their hopes on earth, and stable *here*,
With brutal acquiescence in the mire?

Lorenzo! no; they ſhall be nobly pain'd;
The glorious *foreigners*, diſtreſt, ſhall ſigh
On thrones; and thou *congratulate* the ſigh:
Man's miſery declares him born for bliſs;
His anxious heart aſſerts the truth I ſing,
And gives the ſceptic in his head the lie.
Our heads, our hearts, our *paſſions*, and our *pow'rs*,
Speak the ſame language; call us to the ſkies:
Unripen'd *theſe* in this inclement clime,
Scarce riſe above conjecture, and miſtake;
And for this land of trifles *thoſe* too ſtrong
Tumultuous riſe, and tempeſt human life;
What prize on earth can pay us for the ſtorm?
Meet objects for our *paſſions* Heav'n ordain'd,
Objects that challenge all their fire, and leave
No fault, but in defect: bleſt Heav'n! avert
A bounded ardour for unbounded bliſs:
O for a bliſs unbounded! far beneath
A ſoul immortal, is a mortal joy.
Nor are our *pow'rs* to periſh immature;
But after feeble effort *here*, beneath
A brighter ſun, and in a nobler ſoil,
Tranſplanted from this ſublunary bed,
Shall flouriſh fair, and put forth all their bloom.
Reaſon progreſſive, *inſtinct* is complete;
Swift *inſtinct* leaps; ſlow *reaſon* feebly climbs.
Brutes ſoon their zenith reach: their little all
Flows in at once: in ages they no more
Could know, or do, or covet, or enjoy.
Were *man* to live coeval with the ſun,
The patriarch-pupil would be learning ſtill;
Yet, dying, leave his leſſon half-unlearnt.

Men perish in advance, as if the sun
Should set ere noon, in *eastern* oceans drown'd;
If fit, with *dim, illustrious* to compare,
The sun's *meridian*, with the *soul* of man.
To man, why, stepdame *nature!* so severe?
Why thrown aside thy master-piece half-wrought,
While meaner efforts thy last hand enjoy?
Or, if abortively poor man must die,
Nor reach, what reach he might; why die in *dread?*
Why curst with foresight? wise to misery?
Why of his proud prerogative the prey?
Why less pre-eminent in rank, than pain?
His *immortality* alone can tell
Full ample fund to balance all amiss,
And turn the scale in favour of the just!
His *immortality* alone can solve
That darkest of *ænigmas*, human *hope*;
Of all the darkest, if at death we die.
Hope, eager hope, th' assassin of our joy,
All *present* blessings treading under foot,
Is scarce a milder tyrant than *despair*.
With no past toils content, still planning new,
Hope turns us o'er to death alone for ease.
Possession, why more tasteless than *pursuit?*
Why is a wish far dearer than a crown?
That wish accomplish'd, why the grave of bliss!
Because, in the *great future* bury'd deep,
Beyond our plans of empire, and renown,
Lies *all* that man with ardour should pursue;
And *He* who made him, bent him to the right.
Man's heart th' ALMIGHTY to the *future* sets,
By secret, and inviolable springs;

And makes his hope his ſublunary joy.
Man's heart eats all things, and is hungry ſtill;
"More, more!" the glutton cries: for ſomething *new*,
So rages appetite, if man can't mount,
He will deſcend. He ſtarves on the *poſſeſt*.
Hence the world's maſter, from ambition's ſpire,
In *Caprea* plung'd; and div'd beneath the brute.
In that rank ſty why wallow'd empire's ſon
Supreme? becauſe he could no higher fly;
His *riot* was *ambition* in deſpair.
Old *Rome* conſulted birds; *Lorenzo!* thou
With more ſucceſs, the flight of *hope* ſurvey;
Of reſtleſs hope, for ever on the wing.
High-perch'd o'er ev'ry thought that falcon ſits,
To fly at all that riſes in her ſight;
And, never ſtooping, but to mount again
Next moment, ſhe betrays her aim's miſtake,
And owns her quarry lodg'd beyond the grave.
There ſhould it fail us (it muſt fail us there,
If *being* fails) more mournful riddles riſe,
And *virtue* vies with *hope* in myſtery.
Why *virtue?* where its praiſe, its being, fled?
Virtue is true ſelf-intereſt purſu'd:
What true-ſelf-intereſt of *quite*-mortal man?
To cloſe with all that makes him happy *here*.
If vice (as ſometimes) is our friend on earth,
Then vice is virtue; 'tis our *ſov'reign* good.
In *ſelf-applauſe* is virtue's golden prize;
No ſelf-applauſe attends it on thy ſcheme:
Whence ſelf-applauſe? from conſcience of the right.
And what is right, but means of happineſs?
No means of happineſs when *virtue* yields;

That baſis failing, falls the building too,
And lays in ruins ev'ry *virtuous joy*.
The rigid guardian of a blameleſs heart,
So long rever'd, ſo long reputed wiſe,
Is weak; with rank knight-errantries o'er-run.
Why beats thy boſom with illuſtrious dreams
Of ſelf-expoſure, laudable, and great?
Of gallant enterpriſe, and glorious death?
Die for thy country?——thou romantic fool!
Seize, ſeize the plank thyſelf, and let her ſink:
Thy *country?* what to thee?—the *God-head*; what?
(I ſpeak with awe!) tho' He ſhould bid thee bleed?
If, with thy blood, thy *final* hope is ſpilt,
Nor can Omnipotence reward the blow,
Be deaf; preſerve thy being; diſobey.
Nor is it diſobedience: know, *Lorenzo*!
Whate'er th' *Almighty's* ſubſequent command,
His firſt command is *this*:—"Man, love thyſelf."
In this, alone, free-agents are *not* free.
Exiſtence is the baſis, bliſs the prize;
If *virtue* coſts exiſtence, 'tis a crime;
Bold violation of our law *ſupreme*,
Black ſuicide; tho' nations, which conſult
Their gain, at thy expence, reſound applauſe.
Since *virtue's* recompence is doubtful, *here*,
If man dies wholly, well may we demand,
Why is man *ſuffer'd* to be good in vain?
Why to be good in vain, is man *enjoin'd!*
Why to be good in vain, is man *betray'd?*
Betray'd by traitors lodg'd in his own breaſt,
By ſweet complacencies from virtue felt?
Why whiſpers *nature* lies on virtue's part?

Or if blind *inſtinct* (which aſſumes the name
Of ſacred conſcience) plays the fool in man,
Why *reaſon* made accomplice in the cheat?
Why are the *wiſeſt* loudeſt in her praiſe?
Can man by *reaſon*'s beam be led aſtray?
Or, at his peril, *imitate his God?*
Since virtue *ſometimes* ruins us on earth,
Or *both* are true, or, man ſurvives the grave.

Or man ſurvives the grave, or own, *Lorenzo*,
Thy boaſt ſupreme, a wild abſurdity.
Dauntleſs thy ſpirit; cowards are thy ſcorn.
Grant man *immortal*, and thy ſcorn is juſt.
The man *immortal*, rationally brave,
Dares ruſh on death——becauſe he cannot die.
But if man loſes all, when life is loſt,
He lives a coward, or a fool expires.
A daring *infidel* (and ſuch there are,
From pride, example, lucre, rage, revenge,
Or pure *heroical* defect of thought)
Of all earth's madmen, moſt deſerves a chain.

When to the grave we follow the renown'd
For valour, virtue, ſcience, all we love,
And all we praiſe; for *worth*, whoſe noon-tide beam,
Enabling us to think in higher ſtile,
Mends our ideas of ethereal pow'rs;
Dream we, that luſtre of the *moral* world
Goes out in ſtench, and rottenneſs the cloſe?
Why was he wiſe to *know*, and warm to *praiſe*,
And ſtrenuous to *tranſcribe*, in human life,
The mind ALMIGHTY? could it be, that fate,
Juſt when the lineaments began to ſhine,
And dawn the DEITY, ſhould ſnatch the draught,

With night eternal, blot it out, and give
The ſkies alarm, leſt *angels* too might die?
If human ſouls, why not angelic too
Extinguiſh'd? and a *ſolitary* GOD,
O'er ghaſtly ruin, frowning from his throne?
Shall we, this moment, gaze on GOD in man?
The next, loſe man for ever in the duſt?
From duſt we diſengage, or man *miſtakes*;
And there, where leaſt his judgement fears a flaw,
Wiſdom and *worth*, how boldly he commends!
Wiſdom and *worth*, are ſacred names: rever'd,
Where not embrac'd; applauded! deify'd!
Why not *compaſſion'd* too? If ſpirits die,
Both are calamities, inflicted both,
To make us but more wretched: *Wiſdom*'s eye
Acute, for what? To ſpy more miſeries;
And *worth*, *ſo* recompens'd, new-points their ſtings.
Or man ſurmounts the grave, or gain is loſs,
And worth exalted *humbles* us the more.
Thou wilt not patronize a ſcheme that makes
Weakneſs, and *vice*, the refuge of mankind.
"Has virtue, then, no joys?"--Yes, joys *dear bought*,
Talk ne'er ſo long, in this imperfect ſtate,
Virtue, and vice, are at eternal war.
Virtue's a combat; and who fights for nought?
Or for precarious, or for ſmall reward?
Who virtue's *ſelf-reward* ſo loud reſound,
Would take degrees *angelic* here below,
And *virtue*, while they compliment, betray,
By feeble motives, and unfaithful guards;
The crown, th' *unfading* crown, her ſoul inſpires:
'Tis that, and that alone, can countervail

The *body*'s treach'ries, and the *world*'s aſſaults;
On earth's poor pay, our famiſh'd virtue dies.
Truth inconteſtible! in ſpite of all
A BAYLE has preach'd, or a V——E believ'd.
In man the more we dive, the more we ſee
Heav'n's ſignet ſtamping an *immortal* make.
Dive to the bottom of his ſoul, the baſe
Suſtaining all; what find we? *knowledge*, *love*,
As light, and heat, eſſential to the ſun,
Theſe to the ſoul. And *why*, if ſouls expire?
How little lovely *here*? how little known?
Small *knowledge* we dig up with endleſs toil;
And *love* unfeign'd may purchaſe perfect hate.
Why ſtarv'd, on earth, our *angel* appetites;
While *brutal* are indulg'd their fulſome fill?
Were then capacities *divine* conferr'd,
As a mock diadem, in ſavage ſport,
Rank inſult of our pompous *poverty*,
Which reaps but pain, from ſeeming climes ſo fair?
In future age lies no redreſs? and ſhuts
Eternity the door on our complaint?
If ſo, for what ſtrange ends were mortals made!
The worſt to *wallow*, and the beſt to *weep*;
The man who merits moſt, muſt moſt complain:
Can we conceive a diſregard in Heaven,
What the worſt perpetrate, or beſt endure?
This cannot be. To *love*, and *know*, in man
Is boundleſs appetite, and boundleſs pow'r;
And theſe demonſtrate boundleſs objects too.
Objects, pow'rs, appetites, Heav'n ſuits in all;
Nor, *nature* thro', e'er violates this ſweet,
Eternal concord, on her tuneful ſtring.

Is *man* the ſole exception from her laws?
Eternity ſtruck off from human hope,
(I ſpeak with truth, but veneration too)
Man is a monſter, the reproach of Heav'n,
A ſtain, a dark impenetrable cloud
On nature's beauteous aſpect; and deforms,
(Amazing blot!) deforms her with her *lord*,
If ſuch is man's allotment, what is heav'n?
Or own the ſoul *immortal*, or blaſpheme.

Or own the ſoul immortal, or invert
All *order*. Go, mock-majeſty! go, man!
And bow to thy ſuperiors of the ſtall;
Thro' every ſcene of *ſenſe* ſuperior far!
They graze the turf untill'd; they drink the ſtream
Unbrew'd, and ever full, and unembitter'd
With doubts, fears, fruitleſs hopes, regrets, deſpairs;
Mankind's peculiar! *reaſon*'s precious dower!
No foreign clime *they* ranſack for their robes;
Nor brothers cite to the litigious bar:
Their good is good entire, unmixt, unmarr'd;
They find a paradiſe in every field,
On boughs *forbidden* where no curſes hang:
Their *ill*, no more than ſtrikes the ſenſe; unſtretch'd
By previous dread, or murmur in the rear:
When the *worſt* comes, it comes unfear'd; one ſtroke
Begins, and ends, their woe: they die but *once*:
Bleſt, uncommunicable privilege! for which
Proud man, who rules the globe, and reads the ſtars,
Philoſopher, or *hero*, ſighs in vain.

Account for this prerogative in brutes.
No day, no glimpſe of day, to ſolve the knot,
But what beams on it from *eternity*.

O ſole and ſweet ſolution! that unties
The difficult, and ſoftens the ſevere;
The cloud on *nature*'s beauteous face diſpels;
Reſtores bright *order*; caſts the brute beneath;
And re-inthrones us in ſupremacy
Of joy, ev'n *here*: admit immortal life,
And virtue is *knight-errantry* no more;
Each *virtue* brings in hand a golden dower,
Far richer in reverſion: *hope* exults;
And tho' much bitter in our cup is thrown,
Predominates, and gives the taſte of heaven.
O wherefore is the Deity ſo kind?
Aſtoniſhing beyond aſtoniſhment!
Heaven our reward —— for heav'n enjoy'd below!
Still unſubdu'd thy ſtubborn heart? for *there*
The traitor lurks, who doubts the truth I ſing.
Reaſon is guiltleſs; *will* alone rebels.
What, in that ſtubborn heart, if I ſhould find
New, unexpected witneſſes againſt thee?
Ambition, *pleaſure*, and the *love of gain!*
Canſt thou ſuſpect, that *theſe*, which make the ſoul
The *ſlave* of earth, ſhould own her *heir* of heaven?
Canſt thou ſuſpect what makes us *diſbelieve*
Our immortality, ſhould prove it *ſure?*
First, then, *ambition* ſummon to the bar.
Ambition's *ſhame*, *extravagance*, *diſguſt*,
And *inextinguiſhable nature*, ſpeak.
Each much *depoſes*; hear them in their turn.
Thy ſoul, how paſſionately fond of *fame!*
How anxious that fond paſſion to conceal!
Ye bluſh, detected in deſigns on praiſe,
Tho' for beſt deeds, and from the beſt of men;

And why? becauſe *immortal.* Art divine
Has made the body tutor to the ſoul;
Heav'n kindly gives our blood a *moral* flow;
Bids it aſcend the glowing cheek, and there
Upbraid that little heart's inglorious aim,
Which ſtoops to court a character from man;
While o'er us, in tremendous judgement, ſit
Far more than man, with *endleſs* praiſe, and blame.
Ambition's *boundleſs appetite* out-ſpeaks
The verdict of its *ſhame.* When ſouls take fire
At high preſumptions of their own deſert,
One age is poor applauſe; the mighty ſhout,
The thunder by the living *few* begun,
Late time muſt echo; worlds unborn, reſound.
We wiſh our names *eternally* to live: (though
Wild dream! which ne'er had haunted huma
Had not our natures been *eternal* too.
Inſtinct points out an int'reſt in hereafter;
But our blind *reaſon* ſees not *where* it lies;
Or, ſeeing, gives the ſubſtance for the ſhade.
Fame is the ſhade of immortality,
And in itſelf a ſhadow. Soon as caught,
Contemn'd; it ſhrinks to nothing in the graſp.
Conſult th'ambitious, 'tis ambition's cure.
"And is this all?" cry'd *Cæſar* at his height,
Diſguſted. This *third* proof ambition brings
Of immortality. The firſt in fame,
Obſerve him near, your envy will abate;
Sham'd at the diſproportion vaſt, between
The paſſion, and the purchaſe, he will ſigh
At *ſuch* ſucceſs, and bluſh at his renown.
And why? becauſe far richer prize invites

His heart; far more illuſtrious glory calls;
It calls in whiſpers, yet the deafeſt hear.
And can ambition a *fourth* proof ſupply?
It can, and ſtronger than the former three;
Yet quite o'erlook'd by ſome *reputed* wiſe.
Tho' diſappointments in ambition *pain*,
And tho' ſucceſs *diſguſts*, yet ſtill, *Lorenzo!*
In vain we ſtrive to pluck it from our hearts;
By nature planted for the nobleſt ends.
Abſurd the fam'd advice to *Pyrrhus* giv'n,
More prais'd than ponder'd; ſpecious, but unſound:
Sooner that hero's *ſword* the world had quell'd,
Than *reaſon*, his ambition. Man *muſt* ſoar.
An obſtinate activity within,
An inſuppreſſive ſpring, will toſs him up,
In ſpite of *fortune's* load. Not kings alone,
Each villager has his ambition too;
No *Sultan* prouder than his fetter'd ſlave:
Slaves build their little *Babylons* of ſtraw,
Echo the proud *Aſſyrian*, in their hearts,
And cry,—— "Behold the wonders of my might!"
And why? becauſe *immortal* as their lord;
And ſouls immortal muſt for ever heave
At ſomething great; the glitter, or the gold;
The praiſe of mortals, or the praiſe of heav'n.
Nor abſolutely vain is *human* praiſe,
When human is ſupported by *divine*.
I'll introduce *Lorenzo* to himſelf;
Pleaſure and *pride* (bad maſters!) ſhare our hearts.
As love of *pleaſure* is ordain'd to guard
And feed our bodies, and extend our race;
The love of *praiſe* is planted to protect.

And propagate the glories of the mind.
What is it, but the love of praiſe, inſpires,
Matures, refines, embelliſhes, exalts
Earth's happineſs? from that, the delicate,
The grand, the marvellous, of *civil* life.
Want and *convenience*, under-workers, lay
The baſis, on which *love of glory* builds.
Nor is *thy* life, O *virtue!* leſs in debt
To praiſe, thy ſecret-ſtimulating friend.
Were men not *proud*, what merit ſhould we miſs?
Pride made the virtues of the pagan world.
Praiſe is the ſalt that ſeaſons *right* to man,
And whets his appetite for *moral* good.
Thirſt of applauſe is virtue's *ſecond* guard;
Reaſon, her firſt; but reaſon wants an aid;
Our *private* reaſon is a flatterer;
Thirſt of applauſe calls *public* judgement in,
To poiſe our own, to keep an even ſcale,
And give endanger'd virtue fairer play.
Here a *fifth* proof ariſes, ſtronger ſtill:
Why this ſo nice conſtruction of our hearts?
Theſe delicate moralities of *ſenſe*;
This *conſtitutional* reſerve of aid
To ſuccour virtue, when our *reaſon* fails;
If virtue, kept alive by care and toil,
And, oft, the mark of injuries on earth,
When labour'd to maturity (its bill
Of diſciplines, and pains, unpaid) muſt die?
Why freighted rich, to daſh againſt a rock?
Were man to periſh when moſt fit to live,
O how miſ-ſpent were all theſe ſtratagems,
By ſkill divine inwoven in our frame?

Where are Heav'n's holineſs and mercy fled?
Laughs Heav'n, at once, at *virtue*, and at *man*?
If not, why *that* diſcourag'd, *this* deſtroy'd?
Thus far *ambition*. What ſays *avarice*?
This *her* chief maxim, which has long been *thine*.
"The wiſe and wealthy are the ſame."—I grant it.
To ſtore up treaſure, with inceſſant toil,
This is man's province, *this* his higheſt praiſe.
To this great end keen *inſtinct* ſtings him on.
To guide that inſtinct, *reaſon!* is thy charge;
'Tis thine to tell us where *true* treaſure lies:
But, reaſon failing to diſcharge her truſt,
Or to the deaf diſcharging it in vain,
A blunder follows; and blind *induſtry*,
Gall'd by the ſpur, but ſtranger to the courſe,
(The courſe where ſtakes of more than gold are won),
O'erloading, with the cares of diſtant age,
The jaded ſpirits of the *preſent* hour,
Provides for an *eternity* below.
"Thou ſhalt not covet," is a wiſe command;
But bounded to the wealth the ſun ſurveys:
Look farther, the command ſtands quite revers'd,
And *av'rice* is a virtue moſt divine.
Is *faith* a refuge for our *happineſs*?
Moſt ſure: and is it not for *reaſon* too?
Nothing *this* world unriddles, but the *next*.
Whence inextinguiſhable thirſt of gain?
From inextinguiſhable life in man:
Man, if not meant, by *worth*, to reach the *ſkies*,
Had wanted wing to fly ſo far in *guilt*.
Sour grapes, I grant, *ambition*, *avarice*;

Yet ſtill their root is *immortality*.
Theſe its wild growths, ſo bitter, and ſo baſe,
(Pain, and reproach!) *religion* can reclaim,
Refine, exalt, throw down their pois'nous lee,
And make them ſparkle in the bowl of *bliſs*.
See, the *third witneſs* laughs at bliſs remote,
And falſely promiſes an *Eden* here:
Truth ſhe ſhall ſpeak for once, tho' prone to lie,
A common cheat, and *pleaſure* is her name.
To pleaſure never was *Lorenzo* deaf;
Then hear her now, now *firſt* thy *real* friend.
Since nature made us not more fond than *proud*
Of happineſs (whence hypocrites in joy!
Makers of mirth! artificers of ſmiles!)
Why ſhould the joy moſt poignant *ſenſe* affords,
Burn us with bluſhes, and rebuke our pride?—
Thoſe heav'n-born bluſhes tell us man *deſcends*,
Ev'n in the zenith of his *earthly* bliſs:
Should *reaſon* take her infidel repoſe,
This honeſt *inſtinct* ſpeaks our lineage high;
This inſtinct calls on darkneſs to conceal
Our rapturous relation to the ſtalls.
Our *glory* covers us with noble *ſhame*,
And he that's unconfounded, is *unman'd*.
The man that bluſhes is not *quite* a brute.
Thus far with thee, *Lorenzo!* will I cloſe,
Pleaſure is good, and man for pleaſure made:
But pleaſure full of glory as of joy;
Pleaſure, which neither *bluſhes*, nor *expires*.
The witneſſes are heard; the cauſe is o'er;
Let *conſcience* file the ſentence in her court,
Dearer than *deeds* that half a realm convey;

Thus ſeal'd by *truth*, th' authentic record runs.
" Know, all; know, Infidels,—unapt to know!
" 'Tis *immortality* your nature ſolves;
" 'Tis *immortality* decyphers man,
" And opens all the myſt'ries of his make;
" Without it, half his *inſtincts* are a riddle;
" Without it, all his *virtues* are a dream.
" His very *crimes* atteſt his dignity;
" His fateleſs thirſt of *pleaſure*, *gold*, and *fame*,
" Declares him born from bleſſings *infinite*;
" What leſs than infinite, makes un-abſurd
" *Paſſions*, which *all* on earth but more inflames?
" Fierce paſſions, ſo miſ-meaſur'd to *this* ſcene,
" Stretch'd out, like eagles wings, beyond our neſt,
" Far, far beyond the worth of all below,
" For *earth* too large, preſage a nobler flight,
" And evidence our title to the *ſkies*."
Ye gentle theologues, of calmer kind!
Whoſe conſtitution dictates to your pen!
Who, cold yourſelves, think ardor comes from hell!
Think not our paſſions from *corruption* ſprung,
Tho' to corruption now they lend their wings;
That is their *miſtreſs*, not their *mother*. All
(And juſtly) *reaſon* deem divine: I ſee,
I feel a grandeur in the *paſſions* too,
Which ſpeaks their high deſcent and glorious end;
Which ſpeaks them rays of an eternal fire.
In paradiſe itſelf they burnt as ſtrong,
Ere *Adam* fell; tho' wiſer in their aim.
Like the proud *Eaſtern*, ſtruck by Providence,
What tho' our *paſſions* are run mad, and ſtoop
With low, terreſtrial appetite, to graze

On trash, on toys, dethron'd from high desire?
Yet still, thro' their disgrace, no feeble ray
Of greatness shines, and tells us whence they fell:
But *these* (like that fall'n monarch when reclaim'd)
When *reason* moderates the rein aright,
Shall re-ascend, remount their former sphere,
Where once they soar'd illustrious; ere seduc'd
By wanton *Eve*'s debauch, to stroll on earth,
And set the sublunary world on fire.

But grant their phrensy lasts; their phrensy fails
To disappoint *one* providential end,
For which Heav'n blew up ardor in our hearts:
Were *reason* silent, boundless *passion* speaks
A future scene of boundless *objects* too.
And brings glad tidings of *eternal* day.
Eternal day! 'tis that enlightens all;
And all, by that enlighten'd, proves it *sure*.
Consider man as an *immortal* being,
Intelligible all; and all is great;
A chrystaline transparency prevails,
And strikes full lustre thro' the human sphere:
Consider man as *mortal*, all is dark,
And wretched; *reason* weeps at the survey.

The learn'd *Lorenzo* cries, "And let her weep,
"Weak, *modern* reason: *ancient* times were wise.
"*Authority*, that venerable guide,
"Stands on my part; the fam'd *Athenian* porch
"(And who for wisdom so renown'd as they?)
"Deny'd this immortality to man."
I grant it; but affirm, they *prov'd* it too.
A riddle this!——have patience, I'll explain.

What noble vanities, what moral flights,

Glitt'ring thro' their romantic wiſdom's page,
Make us, at once, deſpiſe them, and admire?
Fable is flat to theſe high-ſeaſon'd Sires;
They leave th' extravagance of ſong below.
"Fleſh ſhall not feel; or, feeling, ſhall enjoy
"The dagger or the rack; to them, alike
"A bed of roſes, or the burning bull."
In men exploding all beyond the grave,
Strange doctrine, this! As *doctrine*, it was ſtrange;
But not, as *prophecy*: for ſuch it prov'd,
And, to their own amazement, was fulfill'd:
They feign'd a firmneſs *Chriſtians* need not feign,
The *Chriſtian* truly triumph'd in the flame:
The *Stoic* ſaw, in double wonder loſt,
Wonder at them, and wonder at himſelf,
To find the bold adventures of his thought
Not bold, and that he ſtrove to lie in vain.
Whence, then, thoſe thoughts? thoſe tow'ring thoughts, that flew
Such monſtrous heights?—From *inſtinct*, and from *pride*.
The glorious *inſtinct* of a deathleſs ſoul,
Confus'dly conſcious of her dignity,
Suggeſted truths they could not underſtand.
In *luſt*'s dominion, and in *paſſion*'s ſtorm,
Truth's ſyſtem broken, ſcatter'd fragments lay,
As light in chaos, glimm'ring thro' the gloom:
Mit with the pomp of lofty ſentiments,
Pleas'd *pride* proclaim'd, what *reaſon* diſbeliev'd.
Pride, like the *Delphic* prieſteſs, with a ſwell,
Gav'd nonſenſe, deſtin'd to be future ſenſe,
When life *immortal*, in full day, ſhould ſhine;

And *death's dark ſhadows* fly the goſpel ſun.
They ſpoke, what nothing but *immortal* ſouls
Could ſpeak; and thus the truth they queſtion'd, prov'd
Can then *abſurdities*, as well as *crimes*,
Speak man *immortal?* all things ſpeak him ſo.
Much has been urg'd; and doſt thou call for more?
Call: and with endleſs queſtions be diſtreſt,
All unreſolveable, if *earth* is all.
" Why life, a moment; infinite, deſire?
" Our wiſh, Eternity? Our home, the Grave?
" Heav'n's *promiſe* dormant lies in human *hope*;
" Who *wiſhes* life immortal, *proves* it too.
" Why happineſs purſu'd, tho' never found?
" Man's thirſt of happineſs declares *It is*
" (For nature never gravitates to nought);
" That thirſt unquench'd declares *It is not here.*
" *My Lucia, thy Clarciſſa*, call to thought;
" Why *cordial friendſhip* rivetted ſo deep,
" As hearts to pierce at firſt, at parting, rend,
" If friend, and friendſhip, vaniſh in an hour?
" Is not this torment in the maſk of joy?
" Why by *reflection* marr'd the joys of *ſenſe?*
" Why *paſt*, and *future*, preying on our hearts,
" And putting all our *preſent* joys to death?
" Why labours *reaſon? inſtinct* were as well;
" Inſtinct, far better; what can *chuſe* can *err:*
" O how *infallible* the thoughtleſs brute!
" 'Twere well his *Holineſs* were half as ſure.
" *Reaſon* with *inclination*, why at war?
" Why ſenſe of *guilt?* why *conſcience* up in arms?
Conſcience of guilt, is prophecy of pain,

And boſom-council to decline the blow.
Reaſon with inclination ne'er had jarr'd,
If nothing future paid forbearance here.
Thus on—theſe and a thouſand pleas uncall'd,
All *promiſe*, ſome *enſure*, a ſecond ſcience;
Which, were it *doubtful*, would be dearer far
Than all things elſe moſt *certain*: were it *falſe*.
What *truth* on earth ſo precious as the lie?
This world it gives us, let what will enſue!
This world it gives, in that high cordial, *hope*:
The future of the preſent is the ſoul:
How *this* life groans, when ſever'd from the *next*?
Poor, mutilated wretch, that diſbelieves!
By dark diſtruſt his being cut in two,
In *both* parts periſhes; life void of joy,
Sad prelude of eternity in pain!
Couldſt thou perſuade me, the next life could fail
Our ardent wiſhes; how ſhould I pour out
My bleeding heart in anguiſh, *new*, as deep!
Oh! with what thoughts, thy *hope*, and my *deſpair*,
Abhorr'd ANNIHILATION! blaſts the ſoul,
And wide-extends the bounds of human woe;
Could I believe *Lorenzo*'s ſyſtem true,
In *this* black channel would my ravings run.
"*Grief* from the *future* borrow'd peace, ere-while,
"The future *vaniſh'd!* and the preſent *pain'd!*
"Strange import of unprecedented ill!
"Fall how profound! like *Lucifer*'s the fall!
"Unequal fate! his fall, without his guilt
"From where fond *hope* built her pavilion high
"The gods among, hurl'd headlong, hurl'd at once
"To night! to nothing! darker ſtill than night.

" If 'twas a dream, why wake me, my worſt foe,
" *Lorenzo!* boaſtful of the name of friend!
" O for deluſion! O for error ſtill!
" Could vengeance ſtrike much ſtronger than to plant
" A *thinking* being in a world like this,
" Not over-rich before, *now* beggar'd quite.
" More curſt than at the *fall?*—the ſun goes out!
" The thorn ſhoots up! what thorns in ev'ry thought?
" Why ſenſe of better? it imbitters worſe.
" Why ſenſe? why life? if but to ſigh, then ſink
" To what I was? *twice* nothing! and much woe!
" Woe from Heav'n's bounties! woe, from what was wont
" To flatter moſt, high *intellectual pow'rs.*
" *Thought, virtue, knowledge!* bleſſings, by *thy* ſcheme,
" All poiſon'd into pains. Firſt *knowledge*, once
" My ſoul's ambition, *now* her greateſt dread.
" To *know myſelf*, true wiſdom?——no, to ſhun
" That ſhocking ſcience. Parent of deſpair!
" Avert thy mirror: if I ſee, I die.
" *Know my Creator*! climb his bleſt abode
" By painful ſpeculation, pierce the veil,
" Dive in his nature, read his attributes,
" And gaze in admiration——on a *foe*,
" Obtruding life, with-holding happineſs!
" From the full rivers that ſurround his throne,
" Not letting fall one drop of joy on man;
" Man gaſping for one drop, that he might ceaſe
" To curſe his birth, nor envy *reptiles* more!
" Ye ſable clouds! ye darkeſt ſhades of night!
" Hide *him*, for ever hide him, from my thought,

" Once all my comfort; ſource, and ſoul of joy!
" Now leagu'd with furies, and with * *Thee*, againſt me.
" *Know his atchievements*! ſtudy his renown!
" Contemplate this amazing univerſe,
" Drop'd from his hand, with miracles replete!
" For what? 'mid miracles of nobler name,
" To find one miracle of *miſery?*
" To find the being, which alone can *know*
" And *praiſe* his works, a blemiſh on his praiſe?
" Thro' nature's ample range, in thought, to ſtrole
" And ſtart at *man*, the ſingle mourner there,
" Breathing high hope! chain'd down to pangs, and death!
" Knowing is ſuff'ring: and ſhall *virtue* ſhare
" The ſigh of *knowledge?* virtue ſhares the ſigh.
" By ſtraining up the ſteep of *excellent*,
" By battles fought, and from *temptation* won,
" What gains ſhe, but the pang of ſeeing worth,
" *Angelic* worth, ſoon ſhuffled in the dark
" With every vice, and ſwept to *brutal* duſt?
" Merit is madneſs; virtue is a crime;
" A crime to *reaſon*, if it coſts us pain
" *Unpaid*: what pain, amidſt a thouſand more,
" To think the moſt *abandon'd*, after days
" Of triumph o'er their betters, find in death
" As ſoft a pillow, nor make fouler clay!
" *Duty! religion!*——theſe, our duty done,
" Imply reward. *Religion* is miſtake.
" *Duty!*——there's none, but to repe the cheat.
" Ye cheats! away! ye daughters of my pride!

* *Lorenzo.*

" Who feign yourſelves the fav'rites of the ſkies;
" Ye tow'ring hopes! abortive energies!
" That toſs, and ſtruggle in my *lying* breaſt,
" To ſcale the ſkies and build preſumptions there,
" As I were heir of an *eternity*.
" Vain, vain ambitions! trouble me no more.
" Why travel far in queſt of ſure defeat?
" As bounded as my being, be my wiſh.
" All is inverted, *wiſdom* is a fool.
" *Senſe!* take the rein; blind *paſſion!* drive us on;
" And, *ignorance!* befriend us on our way;
" Ye *new*, but *trueſt* patterns of our peace!
" Yes; give the *pulſe* full empire; live the *brute*,
" Since, as the brute, we die. The ſum of man,
" Of godlike man! to *revel*, and to *rot*,
" But not on equal terms with *other* brutes:
" *Their* revels a more poignant reliſh yield,
" And ſafer too; *they* never poiſons chuſe,
" *Inſtinct*, than *reaſon*, makes more wholſome meals
" And ſends all-marring murmur far away
" For *ſenſual* life *they* beſt philoſophize;
" *Theirs*, that *ſerene* the *ſages* ſought in vain;
" 'Tis *man* alone expoſtulates with Heav'n;
" *His*, all the *pow'r*, and all the *cauſe*, to mourn,
" Shall *human* eyes *alone* diſſolve in tears?
" And bleed, in anguiſh, none but *human* hearts!
" The wide ſtretch'd realm of *intellectual* woe,
" Surpaſſing *ſenſual* far, is all our own.
" In *life* ſo fatally diſtinguiſh'd, why
" Caſt in one lot, confounded, lump'd, in *death*!
" Ere yet in being, was mankind in guilt!
" Why thunder'd this peculiar *clauſe* againſt us,

" *All-moral, and all-wretched!*—Have the ſkies
" Reaſons of ſtate, their ſubjects may not ſcan,
" Nor *humbly* reaſon, when they *ſorely* ſigh?
" *All-mortal and all-wretched!*——'tis too much;
" Unparallel'd in nature: 'tis too much
" On being *unrequeſted* at thy hands,
" *Omnipotent!* for I ſee nought but *pow'r*.
" And why ſee that! why *thought?* to toil, and eat,
" Then make our bed in darkneſs, needs no thought.
" What ſuperfluities are *reas'ning* ſouls!
" Oh, give eternity! or thought deſtroy!
" But without thought our curſe were half unfelt;
" Its blunted edge would ſpare the throbbing heart,
" And, *therefore*, 'tis beſtow'd. I thank thee, *reaſon?*
" For aiding life's too ſmall calamities,
" And giving being to the dread of *death*.
" Such are thy bounties!—was it then too much
" For *me*, to treſpaſs on the brutal rights?
" Too much for *Heav'n* to make one emmet more?
" Too much for *chaos* to permit my maſs
" A longer ſtay with eſſences unwrought,
" Unfaſhion'd, untormented into *man?*
" Wretched preferment to this round of pains!
" Wretched capacity of frenzy, *thought!*
" Wretched capacity of dying, *life!*
" *Life, thought, worth, wiſdom*, all (O foul revolt!)
" *Once* friends to peace, gone over to the foe.
" *Death*, then, has chang'd its nature too: O death!
" Come to my boſom, thou beſt gift of Heav'n!
" Beſt friend of man! ſince man is man no more.
" Why in this thorny *wilderneſs* ſo long,
" Since there's no *promis'd land*'s ambroſial bow'r,

" To pay me with its honey for my ſtings?
" If needful to the ſelfiſh ſchemes of Heav'n
" To ſting us ſore, why mock'd our miſery?
" Why this ſo ſumptuous inſult o'er our heads?
" Why this illuſtrious canopy diſplay'd?
" Why ſo magnificently lodg'd *deſpair?*
" At ſtated periods, ſure returning, roll
" Theſe *glorious orbs*, that mortals may compute
" Their length of labours, and of pains; nor loſe
" Their miſery's full meaſure?—Smiles with flowers,
" And fruits, promiſcuous, ever-teeming *earth*,
" That man may languiſh in *luxurious* ſcenes,
" And in an *Eden* mourn his wither'd joys?
" Claim earth and ſkies man's admiration, due
" For *ſuch* delights! bleſt *animals*! too wiſe
" To *wonder*; and too happy to *complain!*
" Our *doom decreed* demands a mournful ſcene:
" Why not a dungeon dark, for the *condemn'd?*
" Why not the dragon's ſubterranean den,
" For man to howl in? why not his abode
" Of the ſame diſmal colour with his fate!
" A *Thebes*, a *Babylon*, at vaſt expence
" Of time, toil, treaſure, art, for owls and adders,
" As congruous as, for man, this lofty dome,
" Which prompts proud thought, and kindles high deſire,
" If, from her humble chamber in the duſt,
" While proud thought ſwells, and high deſire inflames,
" The poor *worm* calls us for her inmates *there*;
" And, round us, *death*'s inexorable hand
" Draws the dark curtain cloſe; undrawn no more.

"*Undrawn no more!*—behind the cloud of *death*,
"Once, I beheld a ſun; a ſun which gilt
"That ſable cloud, and turn'd it all to gold:
"How the *grave*'s alter'd! fathomleſs, as hell!
"A *real* hell to thoſe who dreamt of heav'n.
"ANNIHILATION! how it yawns before me!
"Next moment I may drop from *thought*, from *ſenſe*,
"The privilege of *angels*, and of *worms*,
"An outcaſt from exiſtence! and this ſpirit,
"This all-pervading, this all-conſcious ſoul,
"This particle of energy divine,
"Which travels nature, flies from ſtar to ſtar,
"And viſits Gods, and emulates their pow'rs,
"For ever is extinguiſh'd. Horror! death!
"Death of *that* death, I *fearleſs*, once ſurvey'd!—
"When horror *univerſal* ſhall deſcend,
"And heav'n's dark concave urn all human race,
"On that enormous, unrefunding tomb,
"How juſt this verſe! this monumental ſigh!"

Beneath the lumber of demoliſh'd worlds,
Deep in the rubbiſh of the gen'ral wreck,
Swept ignominious to the common maſs
Of matter, never dignify'd with life,
Here ly proud rationals; *the ſons of heav'n!*
The lords of earth! the property of worms!
Beings of yeſterday, and no to-morrow!
Who liv'd in terror, and in pangs expir'd!
All gone to rot in chaos; *or to make*
Their happy tranſit into blocks, *or* brutes,
Nor longer ſully their CREATOR'S *name.*

Lorenzo! hear, pauſe, ponder, and pronounce.
Juſt is this hiſtory? If *ſuch* is man,

Mankind's hiſtorian, tho' divine, might weep.
And dares *Lorenzo* ſmile?—I know thee proud;
For once let *pride* befriend thee: pride looks pale
At ſuch a ſcene, and ſighs for ſomething more.
Amid thy boaſts, preſumptions, and diſplays,
And art thou then a ſhadow? leſs than ſhade?
A nothing? *leſs* than nothing? to *have* been,
And *not to be*, is lower than unborn.
Art thou *ambitious*? why then make the worm
Thine equal? Runs thy taſte of *pleaſure* high?
Why patronize ſure death of ev'ry joy?
Charm *riches*? why chuſe begg'ry in the grave,
Of ev'ry hope a bankrupt? and for ever!
Ambition, *pleaſure*, *avarice*, perſuade thee
To make that world of glory, rapture, wealth,
They * lately *prov'd*, thy ſoul's ſupreme deſire.
What art thou made of? rather, how unmade?
Great *nature*'s maſter-appetite deſtroy'd!
Is endleſs life, and happineſs, deſpis'd?
Or both wiſh'd, *here*, where neither can be found?
Such man's perverſe, eternal war with Heav'n!
Dareſt thou perſiſt? and is there nought on earth,
But a long train of tranſitory forms,
Riſing, and breaking, millions in an hour?
Bubbles of a fantaſtic deity, blown up
In ſport, and then in cruelty deſtroy'd?
Oh! for what crime, unmerciful *Lorenzo!*
Deſtroys thy ſcheme the *whole* of human race?
Kind is fell *Lucifer*, compar'd to thee:
O! ſpare this waſte of being half divine;
And vindicate th' œconomy of Heav'n.

* In the Sixth Night.

Heav'n is all love; all joy in giving joy;
It never had created, but to bleſs:
And ſhall it, then, ſtrike off the liſt of life,
A being bleſt, or worthy *ſo* to be?
Heav'n ſtarts at an *annihilating* GOD.
Is that all *nature* ſtarts at thy deſire?
At ſuch a clod, to wiſh thyſelf *all* clay?
What is that dreadful wiſh?——the dying groan
Of *nature*, murder'd by the blackeſt guilt.
What deadly poiſon has thy nature drank?
To nature undebauch'd no ſhock ſo great;
Nature's *firſt* wiſh is *endleſs happineſs*;
Annihilation is an after-thought.
A monſtrous wiſh, unborn till virtue dies.
And oh! what depth of horror lies unclos'd!
For non-exiſtence no man ever wiſh'd,
But firſt, he wiſh'd the DEITY deſtroy'd.
If ſo; what words are dark enough to draw
Thy picture true? the darkeſt are too fair.
Beneath what baleful planet, in what hour
Of deſperation, by what fury's aid,
In what infernal poſture of the ſoul,
All hell invited, and all hell in joy,
At ſuch a birth, a birth ſo near of kin,
Did thy foul *fancy* whelp ſo black a ſcheme
Of *hopes* abortive, *faculties* half-blown,
And *deities begun*, reduc'd to duſt?
There's nought (thou ſayeſt) but one eternal flux
Of feeble eſſences, tumultous driven
Thro' *time*'s rough billows into *night*'s abyſs.
Say, in this rapid *tide* of human ruin,
Is there no rock, on which man's toſſing thought

Can reſt from terror, dare his fate ſurvey,
And boldly think it *ſomething* to be born?
Amid ſuch hourly wrecks of being fair,
Is there no central, all-ſuſtaining *baſe*,
All-realizing, all-connecting *pow'r*,
Which, as it call'd forth all things can *recall*,
And force *deſtruction* to refund her ſpoil?
Command the grave, reſtore her taken prey?
Bid death's dark vale its human harveſt yield,
And *earth*, and *ocean*, pay their debt of man,
True to the grand depoſit truſted there?
Is there no *potentate*, whoſe out-ſtretch'd arm,
When ripening time calls forth th' appointed hour,
Pluck'd from foul *devaſtation*'s famiſh'd maw,
Binds *preſent*, *paſt*, and *future*, to his throne?
His throne, how glorious, thus divinely grac'd,
By germinating beings cluſt'ring round!
A garland worthy the Divinity!
A throne, by Heav'n's omnipotence in ſmiles,
Built (like a *Pharos*, tow'ring in the waves)
Amidſt immenſe effuſions of his love!
An ocean of *communicated* bliſs!
An all-prolific, all-preſerving GOD!
This were a GOD indeed.—And ſuch *is* man,
As here preſum'd: he riſes from his fall.
Think'ſt thou Omnipotence a naked root,
Each bloſſom of fair DEITY deſtroy'd?
Nothing is dead; nay, nothing ſleeps; each ſoul,
That ever animated human clay,
Now wakes; is on the wing: and where, O where,
Will the ſwarm ſettle?—when the *trumpet*'s call,
As ſounding braſs collects us, round Heav'n's throne

Conglob'd, we baſk in everlaſting day,
(Paternal ſplendor!) and adhere for ever.
Had not the ſoul this outlet to the ſkies,
In this vaſt veſſel of the univerſe,
How ſhould we gaſp, as in an empty void!
How in the pangs of famiſh'd *hope* expire!
How bright *this* proſpect ſhines! how gloomy *thine!*
A trembling world! and a devouring GOD!
Earth, but the ſhambles of omnipotence!
Heav'n's face all ſtain'd with cauſeleſs maſſacres
Of countleſs millions, born to feel the pang
Of being *loſt*. *Lorenzo!* can it be?
This bids us ſhudder at the thoughts of *life*.
Who would be born to ſuch a phantom world,
Where nought ſubſtantial, but our miſery?
Where joy (if joy) but heightens our diſtreſs,
So ſoon to periſh, and revive no more?
The greater *ſuch* a joy, the *more* it pains.
A world, ſo far from *great* (and yet how great
It ſhines to thee!) there's nothing *real* in it;
Being, a ſhadow! *conſciouſneſs*, a dream!
A dream, how dreadful! univerſal blank
Before it, and behind! poor man, a ſpark
From non-exiſtence ſtruck by wrath divine,
Glitt'ring a moment, nor that moment ſure,
'Midſt upper, nether, and ſurrounding *night*,
His ſad, ſure, ſudden, and eternal tomb!
Lorenzo! doſt thou *feel* theſe arguments?
Or is there nought but *vengeance* can be felt?
How haſt thou dared the DEITY dethrone?
How dared indict him of a world like this?
If *ſuch* the world, creation was a crime;

For what is crime, but cauſe of miſery?
Retract Blaſphemer! and unriddle *this*,
Of endleſs arguments *above*, *below*,
Without us, and *within*, the ſhort reſult——
"*If man's immortal, there's a* GOD *in heav'n.*"
But wherefore ſuch redundancy, ſuch waſte
Of argument? one ſets *my* ſoul at reſt;
One obvious, and at hand, and, oh!—at heart.
So juſt the ſkies, *Philander*'s life ſo pain'd,
His heart ſo pure; *that* or *ſucceeding* ſcenes
Have palms to give, or ne'er had he been born.
"*What an old tale is this!*" *Lorenzo* cries,——
I grant this argument is old; but truth
No years impair; and had not this been true,
Thou never hadſt deſpis'd it for its age.
Truth is immortal as thy ſoul; and *fable*
As fleeting as thy joys: be wiſe, nor make
Heav'n's higheſt bleſſing, vengeance; O be wiſe!
Nor make a curſe of *immortality*.
Say, know'ſt thou what *it* is? or what *thou* art?
Know'ſt thou th' *importance* of a ſoul immortal?
Behold this midnight glory; worlds on worlds!
Amazing pomp! redouble this amaze;
Ten thouſand add; and twice ten thouſand more;
Then weigh the whole; *one* ſoul outweighs them all
And calls th' aſtoniſhing magnificence
Of *unintelligent* creation, poor.
For this, believe not *me*; no *man* believe:
Truſt not in words, but deeds; and deeds no leſs
Than thoſe of the SUPREME; nor his, a few;
Conſult them all; conſulted, all proclaim
Thy ſoul's importance: tremble at thyſelf;

For whom *Omnipotence* has wak'd ſo long:
Has wak'd, and work'd, for ages; from the birth
Of nature to this *unbelieving* hour.
In this ſmall province of his vaſt domain
(All *nature* bow, while I pronounce his name!)
What has GOD done, and not for *this* ſole end,
To reſcue ſouls from death? the *ſoul's high price*
Is writ in all the conduct of the ſkies.
The *ſoul's high price* is the *creation's key*,
Unlocks its myſteries, and naked lays
The genuine cauſe of ev'ry deed divine:
That is the *chain of ages*, which maintains
Their obvious correſpondence, and unites
Moſt diſtant periods in one bleſt deſign:
That is the *mighty hinge*, on which have turn'd
All revolutions whether we regard
The *nat'ral*, *civil*, or *religious* world;
The former two, but ſervants to the third:
To that their duty done, they both expire,
Their *maſs* new caſt, forgot their *deeds renown'd*;
And angels aſk, "*Where once they ſhone ſo fair?*
To lift us from *this* abject, to ſublime;
This flux, to permanent; this dark, to day;
This foul, to pure; this turbid, to ſerene;
This mean, to mighty!——for *this* glorious end
Th' ALMIGHTY, riſing, his long Sabbath broke;
The world was made; was ruin'd; was reſtor'd;
Laws from the ſkies were publiſh'd; were repeal'd;
On *earth* kings, kingdoms, roſe; kings, kingdoms fell;
Fam'd ſages lighted up the *Pagan* world;
Prophets from *Sion* darted a keen glance
Thro' diſtant age; ſaints travell'd; martyrs bled;

By wonders, ſacred nature ſtood controul'd;
The living were tranſlated; dead were rais'd;
Angels, and *more* than angels, came from heav'n;
And, oh! for *this*, deſcended lower ſtill;
Guilt was hell's gloom; aſtoniſh'd at his gueſt,
For one ſhort moment *Lucifer* ador'd:
Lorenzo! and wilt thou do leſs? for *this*,
That *hallow'd page* fools ſcoff at, was inſpir'd,
Of all theſe truths thrice venerable code!
Deiſts! perform your quarantine; and then,
Fall proſtrate, ere you touch it, leſt you die.
Nor leſs intenſely bent *infernal* powers
To mar than thoſe of *light*, *this* end to gain.
O what a ſcene is here! *Lorenzo!* wake;
Riſe to the thought; exert, expand thy ſoul
To take the vaſt idea: it denies
All *elſe* the name of great. Two warring worlds!
Not *Europe* againſt *Afric*; warring worlds,
Of *more* than mortal! mounted on the wing!
On ardent wings of energy and zeal,
High-hov'ring o'er this little brand of ſtrife!
This ſublunary ball——but ſtrife, for what?
In their own cauſe conflicting? no; in *thine*,
In *man*'s. His *ſingle* int'reſt blows the flame;
His the ſole ſtake; his fate the trumpet ſounds,
Which kindles war immortal. How it burns!
Tumultuous ſwarms of deities in arms!
Force force oppoſing, till the waves run high,
And tempeſt nature's univerſal ſphere.
Such oppoſites eternal, ſtedfaſt, ſtern,
Such foes implacable, are *good* and *ill*;
Yet man, vain man, would mediate peace between them.

Think not this fiction "*There was war in heaven.*"
From heav'n's high cryſtal mountain, where it hung,
Th' ALMIGHTY's out-ſtretch'd arm took down his bow;
And ſhot his indignation at the *deep?*
Re-thunder'd *hell*, and darted all her fires.——
And ſeems the ſtake of little moment ſtill?
And ſlumbers *man*, who ſingly caus'd the ſtorm?
He ſleeps.——And art thou ſhock'd at myſteries?
The greateſt, thou. How dreadful to reflect,
What ardour, care, and counſel, *mortals* cauſe
In breaſts divine! how little in their own!
Where-e'er I turn, how new *proofs* pour upon me!
How happily this wond'rous view ſupports
My former argument! how ſtrongly *ſtrikes*
Immortal life's full demonſtration, *here*!
Why this exertion? why this ſtrange regard
From heav'n's Omnipotent indulg'd to man?—
Becauſe, in man, the glorious, dreadful pow'r,
Extremely to be pain'd, or bleſt for *ever*.
Duration gives importance; ſwells the price.
An angel, if a creature of a day,
What would he be? a trifle of no weight;
Or ſtand, or fall; no matter which; he's gone.
Becauſe IMMORTAL, therefore is indulg'd,
This ſtrange regard of deities to duſt.
Hence, heav'n looks down on earth with all her eyes:
Hence, the ſoul's mighty moment in her ſight:
Hence, ev'ry ſoul has partiſans above,
And ev'ry thought a critic in the ſkies:
Hence, clay, vile clay! has angels for its guard,
And ev'ry guard a paſſion for his charge:

Hence, from all age, the cabinet divine
Has held high counſel o'er the fate of man.
Nor have the clouds thoſe gracious counſels hid.
Angels undrew the curtain of the throne,
And PROVIDENCE came forth to meet mankind:
In various modes of emphaſis, and awe,
He ſpoke his will, and trembling *nature* heard;
He ſpoke it loud, in thunder, and in ſtorm.
Witneſs, thou *Sinai!* whoſe cloud cover'd height,
And ſhaken baſis, own'd the preſent GOD:
Witneſs, ye *billows!* whoſe returning tide,
Breaking the chain that faſten'd it in air,
Swept *Egypt*, and her menaces, to hell:
Witneſs, ye *flames!* th' *Aſſyrian* tyrant blew
To ſeven-fold rage, as impotent, as ſtrong:
And thou, *earth!* witneſs, whoſe expanding jaws
Clos'd o'er * *preſumption*'s ſacrilegious ſons:
Has not each element in turn, ſubſcrib'd
The *ſoul's high price*, and ſworn it to the wiſe?
Has not flame, ocean, ether, earthquake, ſtrove
To ſtrike *this truth* thro' adamantine man?
If not all-adamant, *Lorenzo!* hear;
All is deluſion, *nature* is wrapt up,
In ten-fold night, from *reaſon*'s keeneſt eye;
There's no conſiſtence, meaning, plan, or end,
In all beneath the ſun, in all above,
(As far as man can penetrate) or heav'n
Is an immenſe, ineſtimable prize;
Or all is nothing, or that prize is all——
And ſhall each *toy* be ſtill a match for heav'n?
And full equivalent for groans below?

* *Korah*, &c.

Who would not give a trifle to *prevent*
What he would give a thouſand worlds to *cure?*
Lorenzo! thou haſt ſeen (if thine, to ſee)
All *nature*, and her GOD (by nature's *courſe*,
And nature's courſe *controul'd*) declare for me!
The ſkies above proclaim "*immortal* man!"
And, "*man immortal!*" all below reſounds.
The world's a ſyſtem of theology,
Read by the greateſt ſtrangers to the ſchools;
If *honeſt*, learn'd; and *ſages*, o'er a plough.
Is not, *Lorenzo!* then, impos'd on thee
This hard alternative; or, to renounce
Thy *reaſon*, and thy *ſenſe*; or, to *believe?*
What then is *unbelief?* 'tis an exploit;
A ſtrenuous enterprize; to gain it, man
Muſt burſt thro' ev'ry bar of common ſenſe,
Of common ſhame, magnanimouſly wrong;
And what rewards the ſturdy combatant?
His prize, *repentance*; *infamy*, his crown.
But wherefore, *infamy?*——for want of *faith*,
Down the ſteep precipice of *wrong* he ſlides;
There's nothing to ſupport him in the *right*.
Faith in the future wanting, is, at leaſt
In *embyro*, ev'ry weakneſs, ev'ry guilt;
And ſtrong temptation ripens it to *birth*.
If *this* life's gain invites him to the deed,
Why not his country ſold, his father ſlain?
'Tis virtue to purſue our good ſupreme;
And his ſupreme, his *only* good is *here*.
Ambition, *av'rice*, by the wiſe diſdain'd,
Is perfect *wiſdom*, while mankind are *fools*,
And think a turf, or tomb-ſtone, covers all;

Theſe find employment, and provide for *ſenſe*,
A richer paſture, and a larger range;
And *ſenſe*, by right divine, aſcends the throne,
When *virtue*'s prize and proſpect are no more;
Virtue no more we think the will of Heav'n.
Would Heav'n quite *beggar* virtue, if belov'd?
"Has *virtue* charms?"—I grant her heavenly fair;
But if unportion'd, all will *int'reſt* wed;
Tho' *that* our admiration, *this* our choice.
The virtues grow on *immortality*;
That root deſtroy'd, they wither and expire.
A Deity believ'd, will nought avail;
Rewards and *puniſhments* make GOD ador'd;
And *hopes* and *fears* give *conſcience* all her pow'r.
As in the dying parent dies the child,
Virtue, with *immortality*, expires.
Who tells me he denies his ſoul immortal,
Whate'er his boaſt, has told me *he's a knave*.
His *duty* 'tis, to love himſelf *alone*;
Nor care tho' mankind periſh, if he ſmiles.
Who thinks ere long the man ſhall *wholly* die,
Is dead already; nought but *brute* ſurvives.
And are there ſuch?—ſuch candidates there are
For *more* than death; for utter loſs of being;
Being, the baſis of the Deity!
Aſk you the *cauſe*?—the cauſe they will not tell;
Nor *need* they: Oh the ſorceries of *ſenſe*!
They work this transformation on the ſoul,
Diſmount her like the ſerpent at the fall,
Diſmount her from her native wing (which ſoar'd
Ere-while ethereal heights) and throw her down,

To lick the duſt, and crawl in ſuch a thought.
Is it in words to paint you? O ye fall'n!
Fall'n from the wings of *reaſon*, and of *hope!*
Erect in ſtature, prone in appetite!
Patrons of pleaſure, poſting into pain!
Lovers of argument, averſe to ſenſe!
Boaſters of liberty, faſt bound in chains,
Lords of the wide creation, and the ſhame!
More *ſenſeleſs* than th' *irrationals* you ſcorn!
More *baſe* than thoſe you rule! than thoſe you pity
Far more *undone!* O ye moſt infamous
Of beings, from ſuperior dignity!
Deepeſt in woe from means of boundleſs bliſs!
Ye curſt by bleſſings infinite; becauſe
Moſt highly favour'd, moſt profoundly loſt!
Ye motley maſs of *contradiction* ſtrong!
And are you, too, convinc'd, your ſouls fly off
In exhalation ſoft, and die in air,
From the full flood of evidence *againſt* you?
In the coarſe drudgeries, and ſinks of *ſenſe*,
Your ſouls have quite worn out the make of heav'n,
By vice new-caſt, and creatures of your own:
But tho' you can *deform*, you can't *deſtroy*;
To *curſe*, not *uncreate*, is all your pow'r.
Lorenzo! this black brotherhood renounce;
Renounce *St Evremont* and read *St Paul.*
Ere rapt by miracle, by *reaſon* wing'd.
His mounting mind made long abode in heav'n.
This is *freethinking*, unconfin'd to *parts*,
To ſend the ſoul, on curious travel bent,
Thro' all the provinces of human thought;
To dart the flight thro' the whole ſphere of man;

Of this vaſt univerſe to make the tour;
In each receſs of *ſpace*, and *time*, at home?
Familiar with their wonders; diving deep!
And, like a prince of boundleſs int'reſts *there*,
Still moſt ambitious of the moſt remote;
To look on *truth* unbroken, and entire;
Truth in the *ſyſtem*, the full orb; where truths
By truth enlighten'd, and ſuſtain'd afford
An arch-like, ſtrong foundation, to ſupport
Th' incumbent weight of abſolute, complete
Conviction; here, the more we preſs, we ſtand
More firm; who moſt *examine*, moſt *believe*.
Parts, like half ſentences, confound; the *whole*
Conveys the ſenſe, and GOD is underſtood;
Who not in *fragments* writes to human race:
Read his *whole* volume, ſceptic! then reply,
This, *this*, is *thinking-free*, a thought that graſps
Beyond a grain, and looks beyond an hour.
Turn up thine eye, ſurvey this midnight ſcene;
What are earth's kingdoms to yon boundleſs orbs,
Of human ſouls, one day, the deſtin'd range?
And what yon boundleſs orbs, to godlike *man*?
Thoſe num'rous world that throng the firmament,
And aſk more ſpace in heav'n, can rowl at large
In *man*'s capacious thought, and ſtill leave room
For ampler orbs; for *new* creations, there.
Can *ſuch* a ſoul contract itſelf to gripe
A point of no dimenſion, of no weight?
It can; it does: the world is ſuch a point,
And, of *that* point, how *ſmall* a part enſlaves?
How ſmall a part——of *nothing*, ſhall I ſay?
Why not?--*friends* our *chief* treaſure! how they drop!

Lucia, *Narciſſa* fair *Philander*, gone!
The *grave*, like fabled *Cerberus*, has oped
A triple mouth; and, in an awful voice,
Loud calls my ſoul, and utters all I ſing.
How the world falls to pieces round about us,
And leaves us in a ruin of our joy!
What ſays this *tranſportation* of my friends?
It bids man love the place where *now* they dwell,
And ſcorn this wretched ſpot they leave ſo poor.
Eternity's vaſt *ocean* les before thee;
There, there, *Lorenzo!* thy *Clariſſa* ſails.
Give thy mind ſea-room; keep it wide of *earth*,
That rock of ſouls *immortal*? cut thy cord;
Weigh anchor; ſpread thy ſails; call ev'ry wind;
Eye thy *great pole-ſtar*; make the land of life.
Two kinds of life has *double-natur'd* man,
And two of death; the *laſt* far more ſevere.
Life *animal* is nurtur'd by the ſun,
Thrives on his bounties, triumphs in his beams.
Life *rational* ſubſiſts on higher food,
Triumphant in *his* beams, who made the day.
When we leave *that* ſun, and are left by *this*,
(The fate of all who die in ſtubborn guilt)
'Tis *utter* darkneſs; ſtrictly *double* death.
We ſink by no *judicial* ſtroke of Heav'n,
But nature's *courſe*; as ſure as plumbets fall.
Since GOD, or man, muſt alter, ere they meet,
(For light and darkneſs blend not in one ſphere)
'Tis manifeſt, *Lorenzo! who* muſt change.
If then, that *double death* ſhould prove thy lot,
Blame not the bowels of the DEITY;
Man ſhall be bleſt, as far as man *permits*.

Not man alone, all *rationals*, Heav'n arms
With an illuſtrious, but tremendous pow'r
To counteract its own moſt gracious ends;
And this, of ſtrict neceſſity, not choice:
That pow'r deny'd, *men*, *angels*, were no more
But paſſive engines, void of praiſe, or blame.
A nature *rational* implies the pow'r
Of being bleſt, or wretched, as we pleaſe;
Elſe idle *reaſon* would have nought to do;
And he that would be barr'd capacity
Of pain, courts incapacity of bliſs.
Heav'n *wills* our happineſs, *allows* our doom;
Invites us ardently, but not *compels*;
Heav'n but *perſuades*, almighty man *decrees*;
Man is the maker of immortal fates.
Man falls by man, if finally he falls;
And fall he *muſt*, who learns from *death* alone
The dreadful ſecret,——that he *lives* for ever.

Why *this* to thee; thee yet, perhaps, in doubt
Of ſecond life? but wherefore doubtful ſtill?
Eternal life is nature's ardent wiſh;
What ardently we wiſh, we *ſoon* believe:
Thy *tardy* faith declares that wiſh deſtroy'd:
What has deſtroy'd it?—ſhall I tell thee what?
When *fear'd the future*, 'tis no longer wiſh'd;
And, when unwiſh'd, we *ſtrive* to diſbelieve.
"*This infidelity our guilt betrays*,"
Nor that the *ſole* detection? bluſh *Lorenzo!*
Bluſh for hypocriſy, if not for guilt.

The *future fear'd*? an infidel, and fear!
Fear what? a *dream?* a *fable?*—How thy dread,
Unwilling evidence, and therefore *ſtrong*,

Affords my cauſe an undeſign'd ſupport!
How *diſbelief* affirms what it denies!
"*It, unawares, aſſerts immortal life.*—"
Surpriſing! *infidelity* turns out
A *creed*, and a *confeſſion of our ſins:*
Apoſtates, *thus*, are orthodox divines.
Lorenzo! with *Lorenzo* claſh no more!
Nor longer a *tranſparent* vizor wear.
Think'ſt thou, RELIGION *only* has her maſk?
Our Infidels are *Satan*'s hypocrites,
Pretend the worſt, and at the bottom, *fail.*
When viſited by thought (thought *will* intrude)
Like him they ſerve, they *tremble, and believe.*
Is there hypocriſy ſo foul as this?
So fatal to the welfare of the world?
What *deteſtation*, what *contempt* their due?
And, if unpaid, be thank'd for their eſcape
That Chriſtian candour they *ſtrive* hard to ſcorn.
If not for that aſylum, they might find
A hell on *earth;* nor 'ſcape a worſe *below.*
With inſolence, and impotence of thought,
Inſtead of racking fancy, to *refute*,
Reform thy manners, and the truth *enjoy.* ——
But ſhall I dare confeſs the dire reſult?
Can thy proud *reaſon* brook ſo black a brand!
From *purer manners*, to *ſublimer faith*,
Is nature's unavoidable aſcent;
An *honeſt* deiſt, where the goſpel ſhines,
Matur'd to nobler, in the *Chriſtian* ends.
When that bleſt change arrives, e'en caſt aſide
This long ſuperfluous; *life immortal* ſtrikes
Conviction, in a flood of light *divine.*

A *Chriſtian* dwells, like * *Uriel*, in the ſun;
Meridian evidence puts *doubt* to flight;
And ardent *hope* anticipates the ſkies.
Of *that* bright ſun, *Lorenzo!* ſcale the ſphere;
'Tis eaſy; it invites thee; it deſcends
From heav'n to woo, and waft thee whence it came:
Read and revere the *ſacred page*, a page
Where triumphs *immortality*; a page
Which not the whole *creation* could produce;
Which not the *conflagration* ſhall deſtroy;
'Tis printed in the mind of Gods for ever:
In nature's ruins not one letter loſt.
In proud diſdain of what e'en Gods adore,
Doſt ſmile? poor wretch! thy guardian angel weeps.
Angels, and *men*, aſſent to what I ſing;
Wits ſmile, and thank me for my *midnight dream*.
How vicious hearts fume phrenſy to the brain!
Parts puſh us on to pride, and pride to ſhame;
Pert *infidelity* is *wit*'s cockade,
To grace the brazen brow that braves the ſkies,
By *loſs of being*, dreadfully ſecure.
Lorenzo! if *thy* doctrine wins the day,
And drives my dreams, defeated, from the field;
If *this* is all, if earth a *final* ſcene,
Take heed; ſtand faſt; be ſure to be a *knave*;
A knave in grain! ne'er deviate to the *right*:
Shouldſt thou be *good*——how infinite thy loſs!
Guilt only makes *annihilation* gain.
Bleſt ſcheme! which life deprives of *comfort*, dear
Of *hope*; and which VICE *only* recommends.
If ſo; *where*, Infidels! your bait thrown out

* *Milton.*

To catch vain converts? *where* your lofty boaſt
Of *zeal for virtue*, and of *love to man*?
ANNIHILATION! I confeſs, in *theſe*.
What can *reclaim* you? dare I hope profound
Philoſophers the converts of a *ſong*?
Yet know, *its* * *title* flatters *you*, not *me*.
Yours be the praiſe to make *my* title good;
Mine to bleſs Heav'n, and triumph in *your* praiſe.
But ſince ſo peſtilential your diſeaſe,
Though ſov'reign is the med'cine I preſcribe,
As yet, I'll neither triumph, nor deſpair:
But hope, ere long, my *midnight dream* will wake
Your hearts, and teach your wiſdom—to be wiſe:
For why ſhould ſouls immortal, made for bliſs,
Ere wiſh (and wiſh in vain!) that ſouls could die?
What ne'er *can* die, oh! grant to *live*; and crown
The wiſh, and aim, and labour of the ſkies;
Increaſe, and *enter* on the joys of heav'n:
Thus ſhall my title paſs a *ſacred* ſeal,
Receive an *imprimatur* from above,
While angels ſhout—*An Infidel reclaim'd!*
To cloſe, *Lorenzo!* ſpite of all my pains,
Still ſeems it ſtrange, that thou ſhouldſt live *for ever!*
Is it *leſs* ſtrange, that thou ſhouldſt live *at all*?
This is a miracle; and *that* no more.
Who gave beginning, can exclude an end.
Deny thou *art*: then, doubt if thou *ſhalt be*.
A miracle with miracles inclos'd
Is man: and ſtarts his faith at what is *ſtrange*?
What leſs than wonders, from the *Wonderful*;
What leſs than miracles, from GOD, can flow?

* The Infidel Reclaim'd.

Admit a GOD—that myſtery ſupreme!
That cauſe uncaus'd! all other wonders ceaſe;
Nothing is marvellous for *him* to do:
Deny him —all is myſtery beſides;
Millions of myſteries! each darker far,
Than *that* thy wiſdom would unwiſely, ſhun.
If *weak* thy faith, why chuſe the harder ſide?
We nothing *know*, but what is marvellous;
Yet what is marvellous, we can't *believe*.
So weak our *reaſon*, and ſo great our GOD,
What moſt ſurpriſes in the *ſacred page*,
Or full as ſtrange, or ſtranger *muſt* be true.
Faith is not *reaſon*'s labour, but repoſe.
To *faith*, and *virtue*, why ſo backward, man!
From hence:—the *preſent* ſtrongly ſtrikes us all;
The *future*, faintly: can we, then, be *men?*
If men, *Lorenzo!* the *reverſe* is right.
Reaſon is man's peculiar; *ſenſe*, the brute's.
The *preſent* is the ſcanty realm of *ſenſe;*
The *future*, *reaſon*'s empire unconfin'd;
On *that* expending all her godlike pow'r,
She plans, provides, expatiates, triumphs, *there;*
There, builds her *bleſſings;* there expects her *praiſe:*
And nothing aſks of *fortune*, or of *men?*
And what is *reaſon?* be ſhe thus defin'd;
Reaſon is *upright ſtature* in the *ſoul.*
Oh! be a *man;* and ſtrive to be a *God.*
"For what? (thou ſayſt:) to damp the joys of life?"
No; to give *heart* and *ſubſtance* to thy joys.
That tyrant, *hope;* mark, how ſhe domineers;
She bids us quit realities, for dreams;
Safety and peace, for hazard and alarm;
That tyrant o'er the tyrants of the ſoul,

She bids *ambition* quit its taken prize,
Spurn the luxuriant branch on which *it* ſits,
Though bearing crowns, to ſpring at *diſtant* game;
And plunge in toils, and dangers—for repoſe.
If *hope* precarious, and of things, when gain'd,
Of little moment, and as little ſtay,
Can ſweeten toils and dangers into joy;
What then, *that* hope, which nothing can defeat,
Our leave unaſk'd? rich hope of boundleſs bliſs!
Bliſs, paſt *man*'s pow'r to paint it; *time*'s to cloſe!
This hope is earth's moſt eſtimable prize:
This is man's portion, while no more than man:
Hope, of all paſſions moſt befriends us *here*;
Paſſions of prouder name befriend us leſs.
Joy has her *tears*; and *tranſport* has her *death*;
Hope, like a cordial, innocent, tho' ſtrong,
Man's heart, at once, *inſpirits* and *ſerenes*,
Nor makes him pay his wiſdom for his joys;
'Tis all our preſent ſtate can *ſafely* bear,
Health to the frame? and vigour to the mind!
A joy attemper'd! a *chaſtis'd* delight!
Like the fair ſummer-ev'ning, mild, and ſweet!
'Tis man's full cup; his paradiſe below!
A bleſt hereafter, *then*, or hoped, or gain'd,
Is all;—our *whole* of happineſs: full proof,
I choſe no trivial or inglorious *theme*.
And know, ye foes to ſong! (well-meaning men,
Tho' quite forgotten * half your *Bible*'s praiſe)
Important truths, in ſpite of *verſe*, may pleaſe:
Grave minds you praiſe; nor can you praiſe too much;
If there is weight in an ETERNITY,
Let the *grave* liſten;—and be *graver* ſtill.

* The poetical parts of it.

NIGHT THE EIGHTH.

VIRTUE's APOLOGY:

OR,

The MAN of the WORLD anſwered.

In which are conſidered,

The LOVE of this LIFE;

The AMBITION and PLEASURE, with the WIT and WISDOM of the WORLD.

VIRTUE'S APOLOGY.

OR,

The MAN of the WORLD answered.

NIGHT THE EIGHTH.

AND has all nature, then, eſpous'd my part?
Have I brib'd heav'n, and earth, to plead againſt thee?
And is thy ſoul *immortal*?—what remains?
All, all, *Lorenzo!*——make immortal, bleſt.
Unbleſt immortals!—what can ſhock us more
And yet, *Lorenzo* ſtill affects *the world;*
There, ſtows his treaſure; thence, his title draws,
Man of the world! (for ſuch wouldſt thou be call'd)
And art thou proud of that inglorious ſtile?
Proud of reproach? for a reproach it *was*,
In ancient days; and CHRISTIAN,——in an age,
When men were men, and not aſham'd of heav'n,
Fired their ambition, as it crown'd their joy.
Sprinkled with dews from the *Caſtalian* font,
Fain would I re-baptize thee, and confer
A purer ſpirit, and a nobler name.
Thy fond attachments, fatal, and inflam'd,
Point out my path, and dictate to my ſong:
To thee, *the world how fair!* how ſtrongly ſtrikes
Ambition! and gay *pleaſure* ſtronger ſtill!
Thy triple bane! the triple bolt, that lays
Thy virtue dead! be *theſe* my triple theme;
Nor ſhall thy *wit*, or *wiſdom*, be forgot.

Common the theme; not ſo the ſong; if ſhe
My ſong invokes, URANIA, deigns to ſmile.
The charm that chains us to the world, her foe,
If ſhe diſſolves, *the man of earth*, at once,
Starts from his trance, and ſighs for other ſcenes;
Scenes, where theſe ſparks of night, the *ſtars*, ſhall
ſhine
Unnumber'd ſuns (for all things, as they *are*,
The bleſt behold;) and, in one glory, pour
Their blended blaze on man's aſtoniſh'd ſight;
A blaze,—the leaſt illuſtrious object there.
Lorenzo! ſince *eternal* is at hand,
To ſwallow *time*'s ambitions; as the vaſt
Leviathan, the bubbles vain, that ride
High on the foaming billow; what avail
High titles, high deſcent, attainments high,
If unattain'd our *higheſt?* O *Lorenzo!*
What lofty thoughts, theſe elements above,
What tow'ring hopes, what ſallies from the ſun,
What grand ſurveys of deſtiny divine,
And pompous preſage of unfathom'd fate,
Should roll in boſoms, where a ſpirit burns,
Bound for eternity! in boſoms read
By *him*, who foibles in archangels ſees!
On human hearts *He* bends a jealous eye,
And marks, and in heav'n's regiſter inrolls,
The riſe, and progreſs, of each option there;
Sacred to doomſday! *that* the page unfolds,
And ſpreads us to the gaze of gods and men.
And what an option, O *Lorenzo!* thine?
This world! and this, unrival'd by the ſkies!
A world, where luſt of *pleaſure*, *grandeur*, *gold*,

Three *dæmons* that divide its realms between them,
With ſtrokes alternate buffet to and fro
Man's reſtleſs heart, their ſport, their flying ball;
Till, with the giddy circle, ſick and tir'd,
It pants for peace, and drops into deſpair.
Such is the world *Lorenzo* ſets above
That glorious *promiſe* angels were eſteem'd
Too *mean* to bring; a promiſe, their *Ador'd*
Deſcended to communicate, and preſs,
By counſel, miracle, life, death, on man.
Such is the world *Lorenzo*'s wiſdom wooes,
And on its thorny pillow ſeeks repoſe;
A pillow which, like opiates, ill prepar'd,
Intoxicates, but not compoſes; fills
The viſionary mind with gay chimeras,
All the wild traſh of ſleep, without the reſt;
What unfeign'd travel, and what dreams of joy!
How frail, men, things! how momentary, both!
Fantaſtic chace, of ſhadows hunting ſhades!
The *gay*, the *buſy*, equal, tho' unlike;
Equal in wiſdom, differently wiſe!
Thro' flow'ry meadows, and thro' dreary waſtes,
One buſtling, and one dancing, into death.
There's not a day, but, to the man of thought,
Betrays ſome ſecret, that throws new reproach
On life, and makes him ſick of ſeeing more.
The ſcenes of *buſineſs* tell us—"what are men;"
The ſcenes of *pleaſure*—"what is all beſide;"
There others we deſpiſe; and *here*, ourſelves.
Amid *diſguſt* eternal, dwells delight?
'Tis *approbation* ſtrikes the ſtring of joy.
What wondrous prize has kindled this career,

Stuns with the din, and choaks us with the duſt,
On life's gay ſtage, one inch above the grave?
The *proud* run up and down in queſt of eyes;
The *ſenſual* in purſuit of ſomething worſe;
The *grave*, of gold; the *politic*, of power;
And all, of other butterflies, as vain!
As eddies draw things frivolous, and light,
How is man's heart by *vanity* drawn in:
On the ſwift circle of returning toys,
Whirl'd, ſtraw-like, round and round, and then ingulph'd!
Where gay deluſion darkens to deſpair!
"*This is a beaten track.*"—Is this a track
Should not be beaten? Never beat enough,
Till enough learnt the truths it would inſpire.
Shall truth be ſilent, becauſe folly *frowns?*
Turn the world's hiſtory; what find we there,
But *fortune*'s ſports, or *nature*'s cruel claims,
Or *woman*'s artifice, or *man*'s revenge,
And endleſs inhumanities on man?
Fame's trumpet ſeldom ſounds, but like the knell,
It brings bad tidings: how it hourly blows
Man's miſadventures round the liſt'ning world!
Man is the tale of narrative old *time*;
Sad tale! which high as *Paradiſe* begins;
As if, the toil of travel to delude,
From ſtage to ſtage, in his eternal round,
The *days*, his daughters, as they ſpin our hours
On *fortune*'s wheel, where accident unthought
Oft, in a moment, ſnaps life's ſtrongeſt thread,
Each, in her turn, ſome tragic ſtory tells,
With, now and then, a wretched farce between;

And fills his chronicle with human woes.
Time's daughters, true as thoſe of men, deceive us;
Not one, but puts ſome cheat on all mankind;
While in their *father*'s boſom, not yet *ours*,
They flatter our fond hopes; and promiſe much
Of amiable; but hold him not o'erwiſe,
Who dares to truſt them; and laugh round the year,
At ſtill confiding, ſtill confounded, man,
Confiding, tho' confounded; hoping on,
Untaught by trial, unconvinc'd by proof,
And ever looking for the never-ſeen.
Life to the laſt, like harden'd felons, lies;
Nor owns itſelf a cheat, till it expires.
Its little joys go out by one and one,
And leave poor man, at length, in perfect night;
Night darker, than what, *now*, involves the pole.
O THOU, who doſt permit theſe ills to fall,
For gracious ends, and wouldſt that man ſhould mourn!
O THOU, whoſe hands this goodly fabric fram'd,
Who know'ſt it beſt, and wouldſt that man ſhould know!
What is this ſublunary world? a vapour;
A vapour all it holds; itſelf, a vapour;
From the damp bed of chaos, by thy beam
Exhal'd, ordain'd to ſwim its deſtin'd hour
In ambient air, then melt, and diſappear.
Earth's days are number'd, nor remote her doom;
As mortal, tho' leſs tranſient, than her ſons;
Yet they doat on her, as the world and they
Were both eternal, ſolid; THOU, a dream.
They doat, on what? *immortal views* apart,

A region of outſides! a land of ſhadows!
A fruitful field of flow'ry promiſes!
A wilderneſs of joys! perplex'd with doubts,
And ſharp with thorns! a troubled *ocean*, ſpread
With bold adventurers, their *all* on board;
No ſecond hope, if here their fortune frowns;
Frown ſoon it *muſt*. Of various rates they ſail,
Of enſigns various; all alike in this,
All reſtleſs, anxious; toſt with hopes, and fears,
In calmeſt ſkies; obnoxious all to ſtorm;
And ſtormy the moſt gen'ral blaſt of life:
All bound for happineſs; yet few provide
The chart of *knowledge*, pointing where it lies;
Or *virtue*'s helm, to ſhape the courſe deſign'd:
All, more or leſs, capricious fate lament,
Now lifted by the tide, and now reſorb'd,
And farther from their wiſhes than before:
All, more or leſs, againſt each other daſh,
To mutual hurt, by guſts of paſſion driven,
And ſuff'ring more from folly, than from fate.

Ocean! thou dreadful, and tumultuous home
Of dangers, at eternal war with man!
Death's capital, where moſt he domineers,
With all his choſen *terrors* frowning round,
(Tho' lately feaſted high at * *Albion*'s coſt)
Wide-op'ning, and loud roaring ſtill for more!
Too faithful mirror! how doſt thou reflect
The melancholy face of human life!
The ſtrong reſemblance tempts me farther ſtill:
And, haply, *Britain* may be deeper ſtruck
By *moral truth*, in ſuch a mirror ſeen,

* Admiral *Belchen*, &c.

Which nature holds for ever at her eye.
Self-flatter'd, unexperienc'd, high in hope,
When *young* with ſanguine chear, and ſtreamers gay,
We cut our cable, launch into the world,
And fondly dream each wind and ſtar our friend;
All, in ſome darling enterpriſe embark'd:
But where is he can fathom its event?
Amid a multitude of artleſs hands,
Ruin's ſure perquiſite! her lawful prize!
Some ſteer aright; but the black blaſt blows hard,
And puffs them wide of hope: with hearts of proof,
Full againſt wind, and tide, *ſome* win their way;
And when ſtrong effort has deſerv'd the port,
And tugg'd it into view, 'tis won! 'tis loſt!
Tho' ſtrong their oar, ſtill ſtronger is their fate:
They ſtrike; and while they triumph, they expire.
In ſtreſs of weather, *moſt*; *ſome* ſink outright;
O'er them, and o'er their names, the billows cloſe;
To-morrow knows not they were ever born.
Others a ſhort memorial leave behind,
Like a flag floating, when the bark's ingulph'd;
It floats a moment, and is ſeen no more:
One *Caſar* lives: a thouſand are forgot.
How few, beneath auſpicious planets born,
Darlings of providence! fond fate's elect!)
With ſwelling ſails makes good the promis'd port,
With all their wiſhes freighted! yet even theſe,
Freighted with all their wiſhes, ſoon complain;
Free from misfortune, not from nature free,
They ſtill are men; and when is man ſecure?
As fatal *time*, as *ſtorm!* the ruſh of years
Beats down their ſtrength; their numberleſs eſcapes

In ruin end: and, now, their proud ſucceſs
But plants *new* terrors on the victor's brow:
What pain to quit the world, juſt made their own
Their neſt ſo deeply down'd, and built ſo high!
Too low they build, who build beneath the ſtars.
Woe then apart, (if woe apart can be
From mortal man) and fortune at our nod,
The gay! rich! great! triumphant! and auguſt!
What are they?—the *moſt* happy (ſtrange to ſay!)
Convince *me* moſt of human miſery:
What are they? ſmiling wretches of *to-morrow!*
More wretched, *then*, than e'er their ſlave *can* be;
Their treach'rous bleſſings, at the day of need,
Like other faithleſs friends, unmaſk, and ſting:
Then, what provoking indigence in wealth!
What aggravated impotence in pow'r!
High titles, *then*, what inſult on their pain!
If that ſole anchor, equal to the waves,
Immortal hope! defies not the rude ſtorm,
Takes comfort from the foaming billow's rage,
And makes a welcome harbour of the tomb.
Is this a *ſketch* of what thy ſoul admires?
"But here (thou ſayeſt) the miſeries of life
"Are huddled in a group. A more diſtinct
"Survey, perhaps, might bring thee better news."
Look on life's ſtages; they ſpeak plainer ſtill;
The plainer they, the deeper wilt thou ſigh.
Look on thy lovely boy; in him behold
The beſt that can befal the beſt on earth;
The boy has virtue by his *mother*'s ſide;
Yes, on *Florello* look; a *father*'s heart
Is tender, tho' the *man*'s is made of ſtone;

The truth, through ſuch a medium ſeen, may make
Impreſſion deep, and fondneſs prove thy friend.
Florello lately caſt on this rude coaſt
A helpleſs infant; now a heedleſs child;
To poor *Clariſſa*'s throes, thy care ſucceeds;
Care full of love, and yet ſevere as hate!
O'er thy ſoul's joy how oft thy fondneſs frowns!
Needful auſterities his will reſtrain;
As thorns fence in the tender plant from harm.
As yet, his *reaſon* cannot go alone;
But aſks a ſterner nurſe to lead it on.
His little heart is often terrify'd;
The bluſh of morning, in his cheek, turns pale:
Its pearly dew-drop trembles in his eye;
His harmleſs eye! and drowns an angel there.
Ah! what avails his innocence? the taſk
Enjoin'd, muſt diſcipline his early pow'rs;
He learns to ſigh, ere he has known to ſin;
Guiltleſs, and ſad! a wretch before the fall!
How cruel this; more cruel to forbear.
Our *nature* ſuch, with *neceſſary* pains,
We purchaſe proſpects of *precarious* peace:
Tho' not a *father*, this might ſteal a ſigh.
Suppoſe him diſciplin'd aright (if not,
'Twill ſink our poor account to poorer ſtill;)
Ripe from the tutor, proud of liberty,
He leaps incloſure, bounds into the world;
The world is taken, after ten years toil,
Like ancient *Troy*; and all its joys his own.
Alas! the world's a tutor more ſevere;
Its leſſons hard, and ill deſerve his pains;
Unteaching all his virtuous nature taught,

Or books (fair virtue's advocates) inſpir'd.
For who receives him into public life?
Men of the World, the terræ-filial breed,
Welcome the modeſt ſtranger to their ſphere,
(Which glitter'd long, at diſtance, in his ſight)
And, in their hoſpitable arms, incloſe:
Men, who think nought ſo ſtrong of the romance,
So rank knight-errant, as a real friend:
Men, that act up to *reaſon*'s golden rule,
All weakneſs of *affection* quite ſubdued:
Men, that would bluſh at being *thought* ſincere,
And feign, for glory, the *few* faults they want;
That love a lie, where truth would pay as well;
As if, to them, *vice* ſhone her own reward.
Lorenzo! canſt thou bear a ſhocking ſight?
Such, for *Florello*'s ſake, 'twill now appear;
See, the ſteel'd files of ſeaſon'd veterans,
Train'd to the world, in burniſh'd falſehood bright;
Deep in the fatal ſtratagems of peace;
All ſoft ſenſation, in the throng, rubb'd off;
All their keen purpoſe, in politeneſs, ſheath'd;
His friends eternal——during intereſt;
His foes implacable—when worth their while;
At war with ev'ry welfare, but their own;
As wiſe as *Lucifer*; and half as good;
And by whom, none, but *Lucifer*, can gain—
Naked, through theſe (ſo common fate ordains)
Naked of heart, his cruel courſe he runs,
Stung out of all moſt amiable in life,
Prompt truth and open thought, and ſmiles unfeign'd
Affection, as his ſpecies, wide diffus'd:
Noble preſumptions to mankind's renown:

Ingenuous truſt, and confidence of love.
Theſe claims to joy (if mortals joy might claim)
Will coſt him many a ſigh; till time, and pains,
From the ſlow miſtreſs of this ſchool, *experience*,
And her aſſiſtant, pauſing, pale *diſtruſt*,
Purchaſe a dear-bought clue to lead his youth
Through ſerpentine obliquities of life,
And the dark labyrinth of human hearts.
And happy! if the clue ſhall come ſo cheap;
For, while we learn to fence with public guilt,
Full oft we feel its foul contagion too,
If leſs than heav'nly virtue is our guard.
Thus, a ſtrange kind of curſt neceſſity
Brings down the ſterling temper of his ſoul,
By baſe alloy, to bear the current ſtamp,
Below call'd wiſdom; ſinks him into ſafety,
And brands him into credit with the *world*:
Where ſpecious titles dignify diſgrace,
And nature's injuries are arts of life;
Where brighter reaſon prompts to bolder crimes,
And heav'nly talents make infernal hearts;
That unſurmountable extreme of guilt!
Poor *Machiavel!* who labour'd hard his plan,
Forgot that genius need not go to ſchool;
Forgot that man, without a tutor wiſe,
His plan had practis'd long before 'twas writ.
The world's all *title-page*, there's no *contents*;
The world's all *face*; the man who ſhews his *heart*,
Is whooted for his nudities, and ſcorn'd.
A man I knew, who liv'd upon a ſmile;
And well it fed him; he look'd plump and fair;
While rankeſt venom foam'd thro' ev'ry vein.

Lorenzo! what I tell thee, take not ill!
Living, he fawn'd on ev'ry *fool* alive;
And, dying, curs'd the *friend* on whom he liv'd.
To ſuch proficients thou art half a ſaint.
In foreign realms (for thou haſt travell'd far)
How curious to contemplate two ſtate-rooks,
Studious their neſts to feather in a trice,
With all the *necromantics* of their art,
Playing the game of *faces* on each other,
Making court ſweet-meats of their latent gall,
In fooliſh hope to ſteal each other's truſt;
Both cheating, both exulting, both deceiv'd;
And, ſometimes, both (let earth rejoice) undone!
Their parts we doubt not; but be that their ſhame;
Shall men of talents, fit to rule mankind,
Stoop to mean wiles, that would diſgrace a fool?
And loſe the thanks of thoſe few friends they ſerve?
For who can thank the man he cannot *ſee?*
Why ſo much cover? it defeats itſelf.
Ye, that know all things! know ye not, mens hearts
Are therefore known, *becauſe* they are conceal'd?
For why conceal'd?—the cauſe they need not tell,
I give him joy, that's aukward at a lie;
Whoſe feeble nature *truth* keeps ſtill in awe;
His incapacity is his renown.
'Tis great, 'tis manly, to diſdain *diſguiſe*;
It ſhews our ſpirit, or it proves our ſtrength.
Thou ſayeſt, 'tis *needful*: is it therefore right?
Howe'er I grant it ſome ſmall ſign of grace,
To ſtrain at an excuſe: and wouldſt thou then
Eſcape that cruel *need?* thou mayſt, with eaſe;
Think no poſt *needful* that demands a knave.

When late our civil helm was ſhifting hands,
So *P*—— thought; think better, if you can.
But this, how rare! the public path of life
Is dirty:——yet allow that dirt its due,
It makes the noble mind more noble ſtill:
The world's no neuter; it will wound or ſave;
Our virtue quench, or indignation fire.
You ſay the world, well known, will make a *man*:—
The world, well known, will give our hearts to heav'n,
Or make us *dæmons*, long before we die.
To ſhew how fair the world, *thy* miſtreſs, ſhines,
Take *either* part, ſure ills attend the choice;
Sure, tho' not equal, detriment enſues.
Not *virtue*'s-ſelf is deify'd on earth;
Virtue has her relapſes, conflicts, foes;
Foes, that ne'er fail to make her feel their hate.
Virtue has her peculiar ſet of pains.
True friends to virtue, *laſt*, and *leaſt*, complain;
But if *they* ſigh, can *others* hope to ſmile?
If *wiſdom* has her miſeries to mourn,
How can poor *folly* lead a happy life?
And if *both* ſuffer, what has earth to boaſt,
Where he *moſt* happy, who the *leaſt* laments?
Where *much*, *much* patience, the moſt envy'd ſtate,
And *ſome* forgiveneſs, needs, the beſt of friends?
For friend, for happy life, who looks not higher,
Of neither ſhall he find the ſhadow *here*.
The world's ſworn advocate, without a fee,
Lorenzo ſmartly, with a ſmile, replies;
"Thus far thy ſong is right; and all muſt own,
"Virtue *has her peculiar ſet of pains*.——
"And *joys peculiar* who to *vice* denies?

" If vice it is, with nature to comply:
" If *pride*, and *ſenſe* are ſo predominant,
" To *check*, not *overcome* them, makes a ſaint.
" Can nature in a plainer voice proclaim
" *Pleaſure*, and *glory*, the chief good of man?"
Can *pride*, and *ſenſuality*, rejoice?
From purity of thought all *pleaſure* ſprings;
And, from an humble ſpirit, all our *peace*.
Ambition, *pleaſure!* let us talk of theſe:
Of theſe, the *Porch*, and *Academy*, talk'd;
Of theſe, each following age had much to ſay;
Yet unexhauſted ſtill, the needful theme.
Who talks of *theſe*, to mankind all at once
He talks; for where the ſaint from either free?
Are theſe thy refuge?—no; theſe ruſh upon thee:
Thy vitals ſeize, and *vulture*-like devour:
I'll try, if I can pluck thee from thy rock,
Prometheus! from this barren ball of earth;
If *reaſon* can unchain thee, thou art free.
And, firſt, thy *Caucaſus*, ambition calls;
Mountain of torments! eminence of woes!
Of **courted** woes! and courted through miſtake!
'Tis not ambition charms thee; 'tis a cheat
Will make thee ſtart, as *H*—— at his *Moor*.
Doſt graſp at greatneſs? firſt, know what it is:
Think'ſt thou thy greatneſs in *diſtinction* lies?
Not in the feather, wave it e'er ſo high,
By *fortune* ſtuck, to mark us from the throng,
Is glory lodg'd: 'tis lodg'd in the reverſe;
In that which joins, in that which equals, all,
The monarch and his ſlave;—" a deathleſs ſoul,
" Unbounded proſpect, and immortal kin,

"A Father God, and brothers in the ſkies;"
Elder, indeed, in time; but leſs remote
In excellence, perhaps, than thought by man;
Why greater what can fall, than what can riſe?
If ſtill delirious, now, *Lorenzo!* go;
And with thy full-blown brothers of the *world*,
Throw ſcorn around thee; caſt it on thy ſlaves;
Thy ſlaves, and equals? how ſcorn caſt on them,
Rebounds on thee! if man is mean, as man,
Art thou a god? if *fortune* makes him ſo,
Beware the conſequence: a maxim that,
Which draws a monſtrous picture of mankind;
Where, in the drapery, the *man* is loſt;
Externals flutt'ring, and the ſoul forgot;
Thy greateſt glory when diſpos'd to boaſt,
Boaſt *that* aloud, in which thy ſervants ſhare.
We wiſely ſtrip the ſteed we mean to buy;
Judge we, in their compariſons, of *men?*
It nought avails thee, *where*, but *what* thou art;
All the diſtinctions of this little life
Are quite cutaneous, foreign to the man.
When, through death's ſtreights, *earth*'s ſubtile ſerpents creep,
Which wriggle into wealth, or climb renown,
As crooked *Satan* the forbidden tree,
They leave their party-colour'd robe behind,
All that now glitters, while they rear aloft
Their brazen creſts, and hiſs at us below.
Of fortune's *fucus* ſtrip them, yet alive;
Strip them of body, too; nay, cloſer ſtill,
Away with all, but *moral*, in their minds;
And let, what then remains, impoſe their name,

Pronounce them weak, or worthy; great or mean.
How mean that ſnuff of glory *fortune* lights,
And *death* puts out! Doſt thou demand a teſt,
A teſt, at once infallible, and ſhort,
Of *real* greatneſs? that man greatly lives,
Whate'er his fate, or fame, who greatly dies,
High-fluſh'd with hope, where heroes ſhall deſpair.
If *this* a true criterion, many courts,
Illuſtrious, might afford but few grandees.
Th' Almighty, from his throne, on earth ſurveys
Nought greater, than an honeſt, humble heart;
An humble heart, *his* reſidence! pronounc'd
His ſecond ſeat; and rival to the ſkies.
The private path, the ſecret acts of men,
If noble, far the nobleſt of our lives!
How far above *Lorenzo*'s glory ſits
Th' illuſtrious maſter of a name *unknown?*
Whoſe worth unrival'd, and unwitneſs'd, loves
Life's ſacred ſhades where Gods converſe with men;
And *peace*, beyond the world's conception ſmiles!
As thou, (now dark) before we part, ſhalt ſee.
But thy great ſoul this *ſkulking* glory ſcorns.
Lorenzo's ſick, but when *Lorenzo*'s ſeen;
And, when he ſhrugs at public buſ'neſs, lies.
Deny'd the public eye, the public voice,
As if he liv'd on others breath, he dies.
Fain would he make the world his pedeſtal;
Mankind, the gazers; the ſole figure, he.
Knows he, that mankind praiſe againſt their will,
And mix as much detraction as they can?
Knows he, that faithleſs *fame* her whiſper has,
As well as trumpet? that his vanity

Is ſo much tickled from not hearing *all?*
Knows this all-knower, that from itch of praiſe,
Or, from an itch more ſordid, when he ſhines,
Taking his country by five hundred ears,
Senates at once admire him, and deſpiſe,
With modeſt laughter lining loud applauſe,
Which makes the ſmile more mortal to his fame?
His *fame*, which (like the mighty *Cæſar*) crown'd
With laurels, in full ſenate, greatly falls,
By *ſeeming* friends, that honour and deſtroy.
We riſe in glory, as we ſink in pride:
Where boaſting ends, their dignity begins:
And yet miſtaken, beyond all miſtake,
The blind *Lorenzo*'s proud——of being proud;
And dreams himſelf aſcending in his fall.

An eminence, tho' fancied, turns the brain;
All vice wants *hellebore*; but, of all vice,
Pride loudeſt calls, and for the largeſt bowl;
Becauſe, unlike all other vice, it flies,
In *fact*, the point, in *fancy* moſt purſu'd.
Who court applauſe, oblige the world in *this*;
They gratify man's paſſion to *refuſe*.
Superior honour, when *aſſum'd*, is *loſt*:
Ev'n good men turn *banditti*, and rejoice,
Like *Kouli-kan*, in plunder of the proud.

Tho' ſomewhat diſconcerted, ſteady ſtill
To the *world*'s cauſe, with half a face of joy,
"*Lorenzo* cries——Be, then, *ambition* caſt;
"Ambition's dearer far ſtands unimpeach'd,
"Gay *pleaſure!* proud *ambition* is her ſlave;
"For her, he ſoars at *great*, and hazards *ill*;
"For her, he fights, and bleeds, or overcomes;

" And paves his way with crowns to reach her ſmile;
" Who can reſiſt her charms?"——or, *ſhould?*
Lorenzo!
What mortal ſhall reſiſt, where angels yield?
Pleaſure's the miſtreſs of ethereal pow'rs;
For her contend the rival Gods above:
Pleaſure's the miſtreſs of the world below;
And well it is for man, that *pleaſure* charms;
How would All ſtagnate, but for *pleaſure*'s ray!
How would the frozen ſtream of action ceaſe;
What is the pulſe of this ſo buſy world?
The love of *pleaſure:* that, thro' ev'ry vein,
Throws motion, warmth; and ſhuts out death from life.

Tho' various are the tempers of mankind,
Pleaſure's gay family hold All in chains:
Some moſt affect the black; and ſome the fair;
Some honeſt *pleaſure* court; and ſome, obſcene.
Pleaſures *obſcene* are various, as the throng
Of paſſions, that can *err* in human hearts;
Miſtake their objects, or tranſgreſs their bounds.
Think you there's but one whoredom? Whoredom All,
But when our *reaſon* licenſes delight.
Doſt doubt, *Lorenzo?* Thou ſhalt doubt no more.
Thy father chides thy gallantries; yet hugs
An ugly, common harlot, in the dark,
A rank adulterer with others *gold*;
And that hag, *vengeance*, in a corner, charms.
Hatred her brothel has, as well as love,
Where horrid *Epicures* debauch in blood.
Whate'er the motive, *pleaſure* is the mark:

For her, the black aſſaſſin draws his ſword;
For her, dark ſtateſmen trim their midnight lamp,
To which no *ſingle* ſacrifice may fall;
For her, the ſaint abſtains; the miſer ſtarves;
The *Stoic* proud, for pleaſure, pleaſure ſcorn'd;
For her, *affliction*'s daughters grief indulge,
And find, or hope, a luxury in tears;
For her, guilt, ſhame, toil, danger, we defy;
And, with an aim *voluptuous*, ruſh on death.
Thus univerſal her deſpotic power.

And as her empire wide, her praiſe is juſt.
Patron of pleaſure! doater on delight!
I am thy rival: pleaſure I profeſs;
Pleaſure, the purpoſe of my gloomy ſong.
Pleaſure is nought but virtue's gayer name;
I wrong her ſtill, I rate her wroth too low;
Virtue the root, and pleaſure is the flower;
And honeſt *Epicurus*' foes were fools.

But this ſounds harſh, and gives the *wiſe* offence:
If o'erſtrain'd wiſdom ſtill retains the *name*,
How knits *auſterity* her cloudy brow,
And blames, as bold, and hazardous, the *praiſe*
Of *pleaſure*, to mankind, *unprais'd*, too dear!
Ye modern *Stoics!* hear my ſoft reply;
Their ſenſes men *will* truſt; we can't impoſe;
Or, if we could, is impoſition right?
Own *honey ſweet;* but, owning, add this *ſting*;
"When mix'd with poiſon, it is deadly too."
Truth never was indebted to a lie.
Is nought but *virtue* to be prais'd, as good?
Why then is health preferr'd before diſeaſe?
What nature loves, *is* good, without *our* leave.

And where no future draw-back cries, "*beware*;"
Pleaſure, though not from virtue, *ſhould* prevail.
'Tis balm to life, and gratitude to Heav'n;
How cold our thanks for bounties unenjoy'd!
The *love of pleaſure* is man's eldeſt-born,
Born in his cradle, living to his tomb;
Wiſdom, her *younger* ſiſter, tho' more *grave*,
Was meant to *miniſter*, and not to mar,
Imperial *pleaſure*, queen of human hearts.
Lorenzo! thou, her majeſty's renown'd,
Tho' uncoiſt, counſel, learned in the *world!*
Who think'ſt thyſelf a *Murray*, with diſdain
Mayſt look on me. Yet, my *Demoſthenes!*
Canſt thou plead *pleaſure*'s cauſe as well as I?
Know'ſt thou her *nature, purpoſe, parentage?*
Attend my ſong, and thou ſhall know them all;
And know thyſelf; and know thyſelf to be
(Strange truth!) the moſt abſtemious man alive.
Tell not *Caliſta*; ſhe will laugh thee dead;
Or ſend thee to her hermitage with *L*——.
Abſurd preſumption! thou who never knew'ſt
A ſerious thought! ſhalt thou dare dream of joy?
No man e'er found a *happy life* by chance,
Or yawn'd it into being with a wiſh;
Or, with the ſnout of grov'ling *appetite*,
E'er ſmelt it out, and grubb'd it from the dirt.
An *art* it is, and muſt be learnt; and learnt
With unremitting effort, or be loſt;
And leaves us perfect blockheads, in our bliſs.
The clouds may drop down titles and eſtates;
Wealth may ſeek us; but *wiſdom* muſt be ſought;
Sought before all; but (how unlike all elſe

We ſeek on earth!) 'tis never ſought in vain.
First *pleaſure*'s birth, riſe, ſtrength, and grandeur ſee:
Brought forth by *wiſdom*, nurs'd by *diſcipline*,
By *patience* taught, by *perſeverance* crown'd,
She rears her head majeſtic; round her throne
Erected in the boſom of the juſt,
Each virtue, liſted, forms her manly guard.
For what are *virtues* (formidable name!)
What, but the fountain, or defence, of joy?
Why, then, commanded? need mankind commands,
At once to *merit*, and to *make*, their bliſs?——
Great Legiſlator! ſcarce ſo great, as kind?
If men are rational, and love delight,
Thy gracious law but flatters human choice;
In the tranſgreſſion lies the penalty;
And they the moſt indulge, who moſt obey.
Of *pleaſure*, next, the final cauſe explore;
Its mighty *purpoſe*, its important *end*.
Not to turn *human* brutal, but to build
Divine on human, *pleaſure* came from heav'n.
In aid to *reaſon* was the goddeſs ſent;
To call up all its ſtrength by ſuch a charm.
Pleaſure, firſt, ſuccours *virtue*; in return,
Virtue gives *pleaſure* an eternal reign.
What but the pleaſure of food, friendſhip, faith,
Supports life *nat'ral*, *civil*, and *divine*?
'Tis from the pleaſure of repaſt, we live;
'Tis from the pleaſure of applauſe we pleaſe;
'Tis from the pleaſure of belief, we pray;
All pray'r would ceaſe, if unbeliev'd the prize:)
It ſerves ourſelves, our ſpecies, and our God;

And to ſerve more is paſt the ſphere of man.
Glide, then, for ever, pleaſure's ſacred ſtream!
Through *Eden* as *Euphrates* ran, it runs,
And foſters ev'ry growth of happy life;
Makes a new *Eden* where it flows; ——but ſuch
As *muſt* be loſt, *Lorenzo!* by thy fall.
" *What mean I by thy fall?*"—Thoul't ſhortly ſee,
While pleaſure's *nature* is at large diſplay'd;
Already ſung her *origin* and *ends*,
Thoſe glorious ends, by kind or by degree,
When *pleaſure* violates, 'tis then a vice,
And vengeance too; it haſtens into pain.
From due refreſhment, life, health, reaſon, joy;
From wild exceſs, pain, grief, diſtraction, death;
Heav'n's juſtice *this* proclaims, and *that* her love.
What greater evil can I wiſh my foe,
Than his full draught of pleaſure from a caſk
Unbroach'd by *juſt authority*, ungaug'd
By *temperance*, by *reaſon* unrefin'd?
A thouſand dæmons lurk within the lee.
Heav'n, others, and ourſelves! uninjur'd *theſe*,
Drink deep; the deeper, then, the more divine;
Angels are angels from indulgence *there*;
'Tis unrepenting pleaſure makes a god.
Doſt think thyſelf a god from other joys?
A victim rather! ſhortly ſure to bleed.
The wrong *muſt* mourn: can Heav'n's appoint-
ments fail?
Can man outwit omnipotence? ſtrike out
A ſelf-wrought happineſs unmeant by *him*
Who made us, and the world we would enjoy?
Who forms an inſtrument, ordains from whence

Its diſſonance, or harmony, ſhall riſe.
Heav'n bid the ſoul this mortal frame inſpire;
Bid virtue's ray divine inſpire the ſoul
With unprecarious flows of vital joy;
And, without breathing, man as well might hope
For life, as, without piety, for peace.
"Is *virtue*, then, and *piety* the ſame?——
No: piety is more; 'tis virtue's ſource;
Mother of ev'ry worth, as that of joy.
Men of the world this doctrine ill digeſt;
They ſmile at piety; yet boaſt aloud
Good-will to men; nor know, they ſtrive to part
What *nature* joins; and thus confute themſelves.
With *piety* begins all good on earth
'Tis the firſt-born of rationality.
Conſcience, her firſt law broken, wounded lies;
Enfeebled, lifeleſs, impotent to good;
A feign'd affection bounds her outmoſt pow'r.
Some we can't love, but for th' Almighty's ſake;
A foe to GOD was ne'er true friend to man;
Some ſiniſter intent taints all he does,
And in his kindeſt actions, he's unkind.
On piety, humanity is built:
And, on humanity, much happineſs:
And yet ſtill more on piety itſelf.
A ſoul in commerce with her GOD, is heav'n:
Feels not the tumults and the ſhocks of life,
The whirls of paſſions, and the ſtrokes of heart.
A Deity believ'd, is joy begun:
A Deity ador'd, is joy advanc'd;
A Deity belov'd, is joy matur'd.
Each branch of *piety* delight inſpires:

Faith builds a bridge from this world to the next,
O'er death's dark gulph, and all its horror hides;
Praiſe, the ſweet exhalation of our joy,
That joy exalts, and makes it ſweeter ſtill:
Pray'r ardent opens Heav'n, lets down a ſtream
Of glory on the conſecrated hour
Of man, in audience with the Deity.
Who worſhips the *Great God*, that inſtant joins
The firſt in Heav'n, and ſets his foot on hell.

Lorenzo! when waſt thou at church *before?*
Thou think'ſt the ſervice long: but is it juſt?
Tho' juſt, unwelcome: thou hadſt rather tread
Unhallow'd ground: the muſe, to win thine ear,
Muſt take an air leſs ſolemn: ſhe complies.
Good conſcience! at the ſound *the world* retires:
Verſe diſaffects it, and *Lorenzo* ſmiles:
Yet has ſhe her *ſeraglio* full of charms;
And ſuch as age ſhall heighten, not impair.
Art thou dejected? is thy mind o'ercaſt?
Amid her fair ones, thou the faireſt chuſe,
To chaſe thy gloom.—"Go, fix ſome weighty *truth?*
"Chain down ſome *paſſion;* do ſome *gen'rous good;*
"Teach *ignorance* to ſee, or *grief* to ſmile;
"Correct thy *friend;* befriend thy greateſt *foe;*
"Or, with warm heart, and confidence divine,
"Spring up, and lay ſtrong hold on *him* who made thee."
Thy gloom is ſcatter'd, ſprightly ſpirits flow;
Tho' wither'd is thy vine, and harp unſtrung.

Doſt call the bowl, the viol, and the dance,
Loud mirth, mad laughter? Wretched comforters!
Phyſicians! more than half of thy diſeaſe.

Laughter, tho' never cenſur'd yet as ſin,
(Pardon a thought that only *ſeems* ſevere)
Is half immortal: is it much indulg'd?
By venting ſpleen, or diſſipating thought,
It ſhews a *ſcorner*, or it makes a *fool*;
And ſins, as hurting others, or ourſelves.
'Tis *pride*, or *emptineſs*, applies the ſtraw
That tickles little minds to mirth effuſe;
Of grief approaching, the portentous ſign!
The houſe of laughter makes a houſe of woe.
A man *triumphant* is a monſtrous ſight;
A man *dejected* is a ſight as mean.
What cauſe for *triumph*, where ſuch ills abound?
What for *dejection*, where preſides a power,
Who call'd us into being to be bleſt?
So grieve, as conſcious, grief may riſe to joy
So joy, as conſcious, joy to grief may fall.
Moſt true, a wiſe man never will be ſad;
But neither will ſonorous, bubbling mirth,
A ſhallow ſtream of happineſs betray:
Too happy to be ſportive, he's ſerene.
Yet wouldſt thou laugh (but at thy own expence),
This counſel ſtrange ſhould I preſume to give—
"Retire, and read thy *Bible*, to be gay."
There truths abound of ſovereign aid to peace;
Ah! do not prize them leſs, becauſe inſpir'd,
As thou, and thine, are apt and proud to do.
If *not* inſpir'd, that pregnant page had ſtood,
Time's treaſure! and the wonder of the wiſe!
Thou think'ſt, perhaps, thy *ſoul* alone at ſtake;
Alas!—Should men miſtake thee for a *fool*;
What man of taſte for genius, wiſdom, truth,

Tho' tender of thy fame, could interpoſe?
Believe me, ſenſe, *here*, acts a double part,
And the true *critic* is a *Chriſtian* too.
But *theſe*, thou think'ſt, are gloomy paths to joy.—
True joy in ſun-ſhine ne'er was found at firſt;
They, firſt themſelves offend, who greatly pleaſe;
And travel only gives us ſound repoſe.
Heav'n *ſells* all pleaſure; effort is the price:
The joys of conqueſt, are the joys of man;
And *glory* the victorious *laurel* ſpreads
O'er *pleaſure*'s pure, perpetual, placid ſtream.
There is a time when toil muſt be preferr'd;
Or joy, by miſ-tim'd fondneſs, is undone.
A man of *pleaſure*, is a man of *pains*.
Thou wilt not take the trouble to be bleſt.
Falſe joys, indeed, are born from want of thought;
From thought's full bent, and energy, the *true*;
And that demands a mind in equal poize,
Remote from gloomy grief, and glaring joy.
Much joy not only ſpeaks ſmall happineſs,
But happineſs, that ſhortly muſt expire.
Can joy, unbottom'd in reflection, ſtand?
And, in a tempeſt, can reflection live?
Can joy like thine, ſecure itſelf an hour?
Can joy, like thine, meet accident unſhock'd?
Or ope the door to honeſt poverty?
Or talk with threat'ning death, and not turn pale?
In ſuch a world, and ſuch a nature, *theſe*,
Are needful fundamentals of delight:
Theſe fundamentals give delight *indeed*:
Delight, pure, delicate, and durable;
Delight, unſhaken, maſculine, divine;

A conſtant, and a ſound, but *ſerious* joy.
Is joy the daughter of ſeverity?
It is:—yet far my doctrine from ſevere.
"Rejoice for ever:" it becomes a man;
Exalts, and ſets him nearer to the Gods.
"Rejoice for ever," *Nature* cries, "Rejoice;"
And drinks to man, in her nectareous cup,
Mix'd up of delicates for ev'ry ſenſe;
To the great Founder of the bounteous feaſt,
Drinks glory, gratitude, eternal praiſe;
And he that will not *pledge her*, is a churl.
Ill firmly to ſupport, *good* fully taſte,
Is the whole ſcience of felicity:
Yet *ſparing pledge: her* bowl is not the beſt
Mankind can boaſt.— A rational repaſt;
"Exertion, vigilance, a mind in arms,
"A military diſcipline of thought,
"To foil *temptation* in the doubtful field;
"And ever-waking ardor for *the right.*"
'Tis *theſe*, firſt, give, then guard, a chearful heart.
Nought that is *right*, think little; well aware,
What reaſon bids, GOD bids; by *His* command
How aggrandiz'd, the ſmalleſt thing we do!
Thus, *nothing* is inſipid to the wiſe;
To thee, inſipid all, but what is *mad*;
Joys ſeaſon'd high, and taſting ſtrong of guilt.
Mad! (thou reply'ſt, with indignation fir'd)
"Of ancient ſages proud to tread the ſteps,
"I follow *nature.*"—Follow *nature* ſtill,
But look it be thine *own*: is *conſcience*, then,
No part of nature? is ſhe not *ſupreme?*
Thou regicide! O raiſe her from the dead!

Then follow nature; and reſemble GOD.
When, ſpite of *conſcience*, pleaſure is purſu'd,
Man's nature is *unnaturally* pleas'd:
And what's unnatural, is painful too
At intervals, and muſt diſguſt even thee!
The *fact* thou know'ſt; but not, perhaps the *cauſe*.
Virtue's foundations with the world's were laid;
Heav'n mix'd her with our make, and twiſted cloſe
Her ſacred int'reſts with the ſtrings of life.
Who breaks her awful mandate ſhocks himſelf,
His better ſelf: and is it greater pain,
Our *ſoul* ſhould murmur, or our *duſt* repine;
And one, in their eternal war, *muſt* bleed.
If one *muſt* ſuffer, which ſhould leaſt be ſpar'd?
The pains of mind ſurpaſs the pains of ſenſe:
Aſk, then, the gout, what torment is in guilt,
The joys of *ſenſe* to *mental* joys are mean:
Senſe on the preſent only feeds; the ſoul
On paſt, and future forages for joy.
'Tis her's, by retroſpect, thro' *time* to range;
And forward *time*'s great ſequel to ſurvey.
Could human courts take vengeance on the *mind*,
Axes might ruſt, and racks, and gibbets, fall:
Guard, then, thy mind, and leave the reſt to fate.
Lorenzo! wilt thou never be a man?
The man is dead, who for the body lives,
Lur'd, by the beating of his pulſe, to liſt
With ev'ry luſt that wars againſt his peace,
And ſets him quite at variance with himſelf.
Thyſelf, firſt, know; then love: a *ſelf* there is
Of virtue fond, that kindles at her charms.
A *ſelf* there is, as fond of ev'ry vice,

While ev'ry virtue wounds it to the heart;
Humility degrades it, *juſtice* robs,
Bleſt *bounty* beggars it, fair *truth* betrays,
And godlike *magnanimity* deſtroys.
This ſelf, when rival to the former, ſcorn;
When not in competition, kindly treat,
Defend it, feed it:——but when virtue bids,
Toſs it, or to the fowls, or to the flames.
And why? 'tis love of *pleaſure* bids thee bleed;
Comply, or own ſelf-love *extinct*, or *blind*.
For, what is *vice*? ſelf-love in a miſtake;
A poor blind merchant buying joys too dear.
And *virtue*, what? 'tis ſelf-love in her wits,
Quite ſkilful in the market of delight.
Self-love's good ſenſe is love of that dread pow'r,
From whom herſelf, and all ſhe can enjoy.
Other ſelf-love is but diſguis'd ſelf-hate;
More mortal than the malice of our foes;
A ſelf-hate, *now*, ſcarce felt; *then* felt full ſore,
When being, curſt; extinction, loud implor'd;
And ev'ry thing preferr'd to what we *are*.
Yet *this* ſelf-love *Lorenzo* makes his choice;
And, in this choice triumphant, boaſts of joy,
How is his want of happineſs betray'd,
By diſaffection to the preſent hour!
Imagination wanders far a-field:
The future pleaſes: why? the preſent pains.——
"But that's a *ſecret*."—Yes, which all men know;
And know from thee, diſcover'd unawares.
Thy ceaſeleſs agitation, reſtleſs roll
From cheat to cheat, impatient of a pauſe;
What is it? 'tis the cradle of the ſoul,

From *inſtinct* ſent, to rock her in diſeaſe,
Which her phyſician, *reaſon*, will not cure.
A poor expedient! yet thy beſt; and while
It mitigates thy pain, it *owns* it too.
Such are *Lorenzo*'s wretched remedies?
The weak have remedies; the wiſe have joys.
Superior wiſdom is ſuperior bliſs.
And what ſure mark diſtinguiſhes the wiſe?
Conſiſtent wiſdom ever wills the ſame;
Thy fickle wiſh is ever on the wing.
Sick of herſelf, is *folly*'s character;
As *wiſdom*'s is, a modeſt ſelf-applauſe.
A change of evils is *thy* good ſupreme;
Nor, but in motion, canſt thou find thy reſt.
Man's greateſt ſtrength is ſhewn in ſtanding ſtill.
The firſt ſure ſymptom of a mind in health,
Is reſt of heart, and pleaſure felt at home.
Falſe pleaſure from abroad her joys imports;
Rich from within, and ſelf-ſuſtain'd, the *true*.
The *true* is fix'd, and ſolid as a rock;
Slipp'ry the *falſe*, and toſſing, as the wave.
This, a wild wanderer on earth, like *Cain*;
That, like the fabled, ſelf-enamour'd boy,
Home-contemplation her ſupreme delight;
She dreads an interruption from without,
Smit with her own condition; and the more
Intenſe ſhe gazes, ſtill it charms the more.
No man is happy, till he thinks, on earth
There breathes not a more happy than himſelf:
Then envy dies, and love o'erflows on all;
And love o'erflowing makes an angel here.
Such angels all, intitled to repoſe

On *Him* who governs fate. Tho' tempeſt frowns,
Tho' nature ſhakes, how ſoft to lean on Heav'n!
To lean on *Him*, on whom arch-angels lean!
With inward eyes, and ſilent as the grave,
They ſtand collecting ev'ry beam of thought,
Till their hearts kindle with divine delight;
For all their thoughts, like angels, ſeen of old
In *Iſrael*'s dream, come from, and go to, heav'n:
Hence, are *they* ſtudious of ſequeſtred ſcenes;
While noiſe and diſſipation comfort *thee*.
Were all men happy, revellings would ceaſe,
That opiate for inquietude within.
Lorenzo! never man was truly bleſt,
But it compos'd, and gave him ſuch a caſt,
As *folly* might miſtake for want of joy.
A caſt, unlike the triumph of the proud;
A modeſt aſpect, and a ſmile at heart.
O for a joy from thy *Philander*'s ſpring!
A ſpring perennial, riſing in the breaſt,
And permanent, as pure! no turbid ſtream
Of rapt'rous exultation ſwelling high;
Which, like land-floods, impetuous pour awhile,
Then ſink at once, and leave us in the mire.
What does the man, who tranſient joy prefers?
What, but prefer the bubbles to the ſtream?
Vain are all ſudden ſallies of delight;
Convulſions of a weak diſtemper'd joy.
Joy's a fix'd ſtate; a tenor, not a ſtart.
Bliſs there is none, but *unprecarious* bliſs:
That is the gem: ſell all, and purchaſe that,
Why go a-begging to contingencies,
Not gain'd with eaſe, nor ſafely lov'd, if gain'd?

At good fortuitous, draw back, and pauſe;
Suſpect it; what thou canſt inſure, enjoy;
And nought but what thou giv'ſt thyſelf, is ſure.
Reaſon perpetuates joy that reaſon gives,
And makes it as immortal as herſelf:
To mortals, nought immortal, but their worth.
Worth, conſcious worth! ſhould *abſolutely* reign;
And other joys aſk leave for their approach;
Nor, unexamin'd, ever leave obtain.
Thou art all anarchy; a mob of joys
Wage war, and periſh in inteſtine broils;
Not the leaſt promiſe of internal peace!
No boſom-comfort! or unborrow'd bliſs!
Thy thoughts are vagabonds; all outward-bound,
'Midſt ſands, and rocks, and ſtorms, to cruiſe for pleaſure;
If gain'd, dear-bought; and better miſs'd than gain'd.
Much pain muſt expiate, what much pain procur'd.
Fancy, and *ſenſe*, from an infected ſhore,
Thy cargo bring; and peſtilence the prize.
Then, ſuch thy thirſt, (inſatiable thirſt!
By fond indulgence but inflam'd the more)
Fancy ſtill cruiſes, when poor *ſenſe* is tir'd.
Imagination is the *Paphian* ſhop,
Where feeble happineſs, like *Vulcane*, lame,
Bids foul *ideas*, in their dark receſs,
And hot as hell (which kindled the black fires
With wanton art, thoſe fatal arrows form,
Which murder all thy time, health, wealth, and fame.
Wouldſt thou receive them, other thoughts there are,

Which theſe, with art divine, would counterwork,
And form celeſtial armour for thy peace.
In *this* is ſeen imagination's *guilt*;
But who can count her *follies?* ſhe betrays thee,
To think in grandeur there is ſomething great.
For works of curious art, and antient fame,
Thy genius hungers, elegantly pain'd;
And foreign climes muſt cater for thy taſte.
Hence, what diſaſter!——tho' the price was paid,
That perſecuting prieſt, the *Turk* of *Rome*,
Whoſe foot, (ye gods!) tho' cloven, muſt be kiſs'd,
Detain'd thy dinner on the *Latian* ſhore;
(Such is the fate of honeſt Proteſtants!)
And poor *magnificence* is ſtarv'd to death.
Hence juſt reſentment, indignation, ire!——
Be pacify'd; if *outward* things are great,
'Tis magnanimity great things to ſcorn;
Pompous expences, and parades auguſt,
And courts; that inſalubrious ſoil to peace.
True happineſs ne'er enter'd at an eye;
True happineſs reſides in things unſeen.
No ſmiles of *fortune* ever bleſt the bad,
Nor can her frowns rob *innocence* of joys;
That jewel wanting, triple crowns are poor:
To tell his *Holineſs*, and be reveng'd.
Pleaſure, we both agree, is man's chief good;
Our only conteſt, what deſerves the name.
Give *pleaſure*'s name to nought, but what has paſs'd
Th' authentic ſeal of *reaſon* (which, like *Yorke*,
Demurs on what it paſſes) and defies
The tooth of time; when paſt, a pleaſure ſtill;
Dearer on trial, lovelier for its age,

And doubly to be priz'd, as it promotes
Our future, while it forms our preſent, joy.
Some joys the future overcaſt; and ſome
Throw all their beams that way, and gild the tomb.
Some joys endear eternity; ſome give
Abhorr'd annihilation dreadful charms.
Are rival joys contending for thy choice?
Conſult thy *whole exiſtence*, and be ſafe;
That oracle will put all doubt to flight.
Short is the leſſon, tho' my lecture long,
Be good—and let Heav'n anſwer for the reſt.

Yet, with a ſigh o'er all mankind, I grant,
In this our day of proof, our land of hope,
The *good man* has his clouds that interveen;
Clouds, that *obſcure* his ſublunary day,
But never *conquer*: even the *beſt* muſt own,
Patience, and *reſignation*, are the pillars
Of human peace on earth. The pillars, theſe;
But thoſe of *Seth* not more remote from thee,
Till *this* heroic leſſon thou haſt learnt;
To frown at *pleaſure*, and to ſmile in *pain*.
Fir'd at the proſpect of unclouded bliſs,
Heav'n in reverſion, like the ſun, as yet
Beneath th' horizon, chears us in this world;
It ſheds, on ſouls ſuſceptible of light,
The glorious dawn of our eternal day.

"This (ſays *Lorenzo*) is a fair harangue:
"But can harangues blow back ſtrong nature's
ſtream;
"Or ſtem the tide Heav'n puſhes thro' our veins
"Which ſweeps away man's impotent reſolves,
"And lays his labour level with the *world*."

Themſelves men make their comment on mankind;
And think nought *is*, but what they find at home:
Thus, weakneſs to chimera turns the truth.
Nothing romantic has the muſe preſcrib'd.
* Above, *Lorenzo* ſaw the man of earth,
The *mortal man*, and wretched was the ſight.
To balance that, to comfort and exalt,
Now ſee the *man immortal:* him, I mean,
Who lives as ſuch; whoſe heart, full bent on heav'n,
Leans all that way, his bias to the ſtars.
The *world*'s dark ſhades, in contraſt ſet, ſhall raiſe
His luſtre more; tho' bright, without a foil:
Obſerve his awful portrait, and admire:
Nor ſtop at wonder; imitate, and live.
Some angel guide my pencil, while I draw,
What nothing leſs than angel can exceed,
A man on earth devoted to the ſkies;
Like ſhips in ſeas, while *in*, *above*, the world.
With aſpect mild, and elevated eye,
Behold him ſeated on a mount ſerene,
Above the fogs of *ſenſe*, and *paſſion*'s ſtorm;
All the black cares, and tumults of this life,
Like harmleſs thunders, breaking at his feet,
Excite his pity, not impair his peace.
Earth's genuine ſons, the ſcepter'd, and the ſlave,
A mingled mob! a wand'ring herd! he ſees
Bewilder'd in the vale; in all unlike!
His full reverſe in all! what higher praiſe?
What ſtronger demonſtration of the right?
The preſent all *their* care; the future *his*.
When public welfare calls, or private want,

* In a former Night.

They give to fame; his bounty *he* conceals.
Their virtues varniſh nature, *his* exalt.
Mankind's eſteem *they* court; and *he*, his own
Theirs, the wild chace of *falſe* felicities;
His, the compos'd poſſeſſion of the *true*.
Alike throughout is *his* conſiſtent peace,
All of one colour and an even thread;
While party colour'd ſhreds of happineſs,
With hideous gaps between, patch up for *them*
A madman's robe; each puff of *fortune* blows
The tatters by, and ſhews their nakedneſs.
He ſees with other eyes than *theirs*: where *they*
Behold a *ſun*, *he* ſpies a *Deity*;
What makes *them* only ſmile, makes *him* adore.
Where *they* ſee *mountains*, *he* but *atoms* ſees;
An *empire*, in *his* balance, weighs a *grain*.
They things terreſtrial worſhip, as divine;
His hopes immortal blow them by, as duſt,
That dims his ſight, and ſhortens his ſurvey,
Which longs, in infinite, to loſe all bound.
Titles and honours (if they prove his fate)
He lays aſide to find his dignity;
No dignity *they* find in aught beſides.
They triumph in externals, (which conceal
Man's real glory, proud of an eclipſe.
Himſelf too much *he* prizes to be proud,
And nothing thinks ſo great in man, as *man*.
Too dear *he* holds his int'reſt, to neglect
Another's welfare, or his right invade;
Their int'reſt, like a lion, lives on prey.
They kindle at the ſhadow of a wrong;
Wrong *he* ſuſtains with temper, looks on heav'n,

Nor ſtoops to think his injurer, his foe;
Nought, but what wounds his virtue, wounds his peace,
A cover'd heart *their* character defends;
A cover'd heart denies *him* half his praiſe.
With nakedneſs his innocence agrees;
While *their* broad foliage teſtifies their fall.
Their no joys end, where *his* full feaſt begins;
His joys *create*, *theirs* murder, future bliſs.
To triumph in exiſtence, *his* alone;
And *his* alone, triumphantly to think
His *true* exiſtence is not yet begun,
His glorious courſe was, yeſterday, complete;
Death, then, was welcome; yet life ſtill is ſweet.
But nothing charms *Lorenzo*, like the firm,
Undaunted breaſt—And whoſe is that high praiſe?
They yield to pleaſure, tho' they danger brave,
And ſhew no fortitude, but in the field;
If there they ſhew it, 'tis for glory ſhewn;
Nor will that cordial always man *their* hearts.
A cordial *his* ſuſtains, that cannot fail;
By pleaſure unſubdu'd, unbroke by pain,
He ſhares in that omnipotence he truſts.
All-bearing, all-attempting, till he falls;
And when he falls, writes VICI on his ſhield.
From magnanimity, all *fear* above;
From nobler recompence, above *applauſe*;
Which owes to man's *ſhort* out-look all its charms.
Backward to credit what he never felt,
Lorenzo cries,—"Where ſhines this miracle?
"From what root riſes this *immortal man?*"
A root that grows not in *Lorenzo*'s ground;

The *root* diſſect, nor wonder at the *flower*.
He follows nature (not like * thee) and ſhews us
An uninverted ſyſtem of a man.
His *appetite* wears *reaſon*'s golden chain,
And finds, in due reſtraint, its luxury.
His *paſſion*, like an eagle well reclaim'd,
Is taught to fly at nought, but infinite.
Patient his *hope*, unanxious in his *care*,
His *caution* fearleſs, and his *grief* (if grief
The gods ordain) a ſtranger to deſpair.
And why?—Becauſe affection, more than meet,
His wiſdom leaves not diſengag'd from heav'n.
Thoſe ſecondary goods that ſmile on earth,
He loving in *proportion*, loves in *peace*.
They moſt the world enjoy, who leaſt admire.
His *underſtanding* 'ſcapes the common cloud
Of fumes, ariſing from a boiling breaſt.
His head is clear, becauſe his heart is cool,
By worldly competitions uninflam'd.
The mod'rate movements of his ſoul admit
Diſtinct ideas and matur'd debate,
An eye impartial, and an even ſcale;
Whence judgement ſound, and unrepenting choice.
Thus, in a double ſenſe, the *good* are wiſe;
On its own dunghill, wiſer than the *world*.
What, then, the world? it *muſt* be doubly weak;
Strange truth! as ſoon would they believe their *creed*.
Yet thus it is; nor otherwiſe *can* be;
So far from aught romantic, what I ſing.
Bliſs has no being, virtue has no ſtrength,
But from the proſpect of immortal life.

* See page 247. line 27.

Who think earth all, or (what weighs juſt the ſame)
Who care no farther, *muſt* prize what it yields;
Fond of its fancies, proud of its parades.
Who thinks earth nothing, *can't* its charms admire;
He can't a foe, though moſt malignant hate,
Becauſe that hate would prove his greater foe.
'Tis hard for *them* (yet who ſo loudly boaſt
Good-will to men?) to love their deareſt friend;
For may not he invade their *good ſupreme*,
Where the leaſt jealouſy turns love to gall?
All ſhines to *them*, that for a ſeaſon ſhines.
Each act, each thought, *he* queſtions, "What its weight,
"Its colour what, a thouſand ages hence?"——
And what it *there* appears, he deems it *now*.
Hence, pure are the receſſes of his ſoul.
The god-like man has nothing to conceal.
His virtue, conſtitutionally deep,
Has *habit*'s firmneſs, and *affection*'s flame;
Angels, ally'd, deſcend to feed the fire;
And *death*, which others ſlays, makes him a god.
And now, *Lorenzo!* bigot of this world!
Wont to diſdain poor bigots caught by heav'n!
Stand by thy *ſcorn*, and be reduc'd to *nought*:
For what art thou?—Thou boaſter! while thy glare,
Thy gaudy grandeur, and mere worldly worth,
Like a broad miſt, at diſtance, ſtrikes us moſt;
And, like a miſt, is nothing when at hand;
His merit, like a mountain, on approach,
Swells more, and riſes nearer to the ſkies,
By promiſe *now*, and, by poſſeſſion, *ſoon*,
(Too *ſoon*, too *much*, it cannot be) his own.

From this thy juſt *annihilation* riſe,
Lorenzo! riſe to *ſomething*, by reply.
The world, thy client, liſtens, and expects;
And longs to crown thee with immortal praiſe.
Canſt thou be ſilent? No; for *wit* is thine;
And wit talks *moſt*, when *leaſt* ſhe has to ſay,
And *reaſon* interrupts not her career.
She'll ſay—*That miſts above the mountains riſe;*
And, with a thouſand pleaſantries, amuſe;
She'll ſparkle, puzzle, flutter, raiſe a duſt,
And fly conviction, in the duſt ſhe rais'd.
Wit, how delicious to man's dainty taſte?
'Tis precious, as the vehicle of *ſenſe;*
But, as its ſubſtitute, a dire diſeaſe.
Pernicious talent! flatter'd by the world,
By the blind world, which thinks the talent rare.
Wiſdom is rare, *Lorenzo!* wit abounds;
Paſſion can give it; ſometimes *wine* inſpires
The lucky flaſh; and *madneſs* rarely fails.
Whatever cauſe the ſpirit ſtrongly ſtirs,
Confers the bays, and rivals thy renown.
For thy renown, 'twere well, was this the worſt;
Chance often hits it; and to pique thee more,
See *dulneſs*, blund'ring on vivacities,
Shakes her ſage head at the calamity
Which has expos'd, and let her down to thee.
But *wiſdom*, awful wiſdom! which inſpects,
Diſcerns, compares, weighs, ſeparates, infers,
Seizes the right, and holds it to the laſt;
How rare! In ſenates, ſynods, ſought in vain;
Or if *there* found, 'tis ſacred to the *few;*
While a lewd proſtitute to multitudes,

Frequent, as fatal, *wit*: in civil life,
Wit makes an enterprizer; *ſenſe*, a man.
Wit hates authority; commotion loves,
And thinks herſelf the lightning of the ſtorm.
In *ſtates*, 'tis dangerous; in *religion*, death:
Shall *wit* turn Chriſtian, when the dull believe?
Senſe is our *helmet*, *wit* is but the plume;
The *plume* expoſes, 'tis our *helmet* ſaves.
Senſe is the di'mond, weighty, ſolid, ſound;
When cut by *wit* it caſts a brighter beam;
Yet, *wit* apart, it is a di'mond ſtill.
Wit, widow'd of *good-ſenſe*, is worſe than nought;
It hoiſts more ſail to run againſt a rock.
Thus, a *half-Cheſterfield* is quite a fool;
Whom *dull* fools ſcorn, and bleſs their want of wit.
How ruinous the rock I warn thee ſhun,
Where *Syrens* ſit, to ſing thee to thy fate!
A *joy*, in which our *reaſon* bears no part,
Is but a *ſorrow* tickling, ere it ſtings.
Let not the cooings of the *world* allure thee;
Which of her lovers ever found her true?
Happy! of this bad world who little know;—
And yet, we much muſt know her, to be *ſafe*.
To *know* the world, not *love* her, is thy point;
She gives but little, nor that little, long.
There is, I grant, a triumph of the pulſe,
A dance of ſpirits, a mere froth of joy,
Our *thoughtleſs agitation*'s idle child,
That mantles high, that ſparkles, and expires,
Leaving the ſoul more vapid than before.
An *animal* ovation! ſuch as holds
No commerce with our *reaſon*, but ſubſiſts

On juices, thro' the well-toned tubes, well-ſtrain'd
A nice machine! ſcarce ever tuned aright;
And when it jars——thy *Syrens* ſing no more,
Thy dance is done; the *demi-god* is thrown
(Short apotheoſis!) beneath the *man*,
In coward gloom immers'd, or fell deſpair.
Art thou yet *dull enough* deſpair to dread,
And ſtartle at deſtruction? if thou art,
Accept a buckler, take it to the field;
(A field of battle is this mortal life!)
When danger threatens, lay it on thy heart;
A ſingle ſentence proof againſt the *world*.
"*Soul, body, fortune!* ev'ry good pertains
"To one of theſe; but prize not all alike;
"The goods of fortune to thy body's health,
"Body to ſoul, and ſoul ſubmit to GOD."
Wouldſt thou build laſting happineſs? do this;
Th' inverted *pyramid* can never ſtand.
Is this truth doubtful? it outſhines the ſun;
Nay, the ſun ſhines not, but to ſhew us this,
The ſingle leſſon of mankind on earth.
And yet—yet, what? no news! mankind is mad;
Such mighty numbers liſt againſt the right,
(And what can't numbers, when bewitch'd, atchiev
They talk themſelves to ſomething like belief,
That all earth's joys are theirs: as *Athen*'s fool
Grinn'd from the port on ev'ry ſail his own.
They grin; but wherefore? and how long t
laugh?
Half ignorance, their mirth; and half a lie;
To cheat the world, and cheat themſelves, they ſm
Hard either taſk! the moſt abandon'd own,

That *others*, if abandon'd, are undone:
Then, for themſelves, the moment *reaſon* wakes,
(And Providence denies it long repoſe)
O how laborious is their gaiety!
They ſcarce can ſwallow their ebullient ſpleen,
Scarce muſter patience to ſupport the farce,
And pump ſad laughter, till the curtain falls.
Scarce, did I ſay? ſome cannot ſit it out;
Oft their own daring hands the curtain draw,
And ſhew us *what* their joy, by their deſpair.
The clotted hair! gor'd breaſt! blaſpheming eye!
Its impious fury ſtill alive in death!——
Shut, ſhut the ſhocking ſcene.—But Heav'n denies
A cover to ſuch guilt; and ſo ſhould man.
Look round, *Lorenzo!* ſee the reeking blade;
Th' invenom'd phial, and the fatal ball;
The ſtrangling cord, and ſuffocating ſtream;
The loathſome rottenneſs, and foul decays
From raging riot (ſlower ſuicides!)
And *pride* in theſe, more execrable ſtill!——
How horrid all to thought!—but horrors, theſe,
That vouch the truth, and aid my feeble ſong.
From *vice*, *ſenſe*, *fancy*, no man can be bleſt:
Bliſs is too great, to lodge within an hour:
When an immortal being aims at bliſs,
Duration is eſſential to the name.
O for a joy from *reaſon!* joy from that
Which makes man, *man*; and exercis'd aright,
Will make him *more*: a *bounteous* joy! that gives,
And promiſes; that weaves, with art divine,
The richeſt proſpect into preſent peace:
A joy *ambitious!* joy in common held

With thrones ethereal, and their greater far:
A joy high-privileg'd, from chance, time, death!
A joy, which *death* ſhall double! *judgement*, crown!
Crown'd higher, and ſtill higher, at each ſtage,
Thro' bleſt eternity's long day; yet ſtill,
Not more remote from *ſorrow*, than from *him*,
Whoſe laviſh hand, whoſe love ſtupendous, pours
So much of Deity on guilty duſt.
There, O my *Lucia*, may I meet thee there,
Where not thy preſence can improve my bliſs!
Affects not this the *ſages of the world?*
Can nought *affect* them, but what *fools* them too?
Eternity depending on an hour,
Makes *ſerious thought* man's wiſdom, joy, and praiſe.
Nor need you bluſh (tho' ſometimes your deſigns
May ſhun the light) at your deſigns on Heav'n;
Sole point! where *over-baſhful* is your blame.
Are you not *wiſe?*—you know you are: yet hear
One truth, amid your num'rous ſchemes, miſlaid,
Or overlook'd, or thrown aſide, if ſeen;
"Our ſchemes to plan by *this* world, or the *next*,
"Is the ſole diff'rence between wiſe, and fool."
All *worthy men* will weigh you in *this* ſcale;
What wonder, then, if *they* pronounce you *light?*
Is *their* eſteem alone not worth your care?
Accept my ſimple ſcheme of *common ſenſe;*
Thus, ſave your fame, and make *two* worlds your own.

The world *replies* not;—but the world *perſiſts;*
And puts the *cauſe* off to the longeſt day,
Planning evaſions for the day of doom.
So far, at that *re-hearing*, from redreſs,

They then turn *witneſſes* againſt themſelves.
Hear that, *Lorenzo!* nor be wiſe to-morrow.
Haſte, haſte! a man by nature is in haſte;
For who ſhall anſwer for another hour?
'Tis highly prudent, to make *one* ſure friend;
And that thou canſt not do, this ſide the ſkies.
Ye ſons of earth! (nor willing to be more!)
Since *verſe* you think from prieſtcraft ſomewhat free,
Thus, in an age ſo gay, the muſe plain truths
(Truths, which, at church, you might have heard in proſe)
Has ventur'd into light; well-pleas'd the verſe
Should be forgot, if you the truths retain;
And crown her with your welfare, not your praiſe.
But *praiſe* ſhe need not fear: I ſee my fate;
And headlong leap, like *Curtius*, down the gulph.
Since many an ample *volume*, mighty *tome*,
Muſt die, and die unwept; O thou minute,
Devoted *page!* go forth among thy foes;
Go, nobly proud of martyrdom for truth,
And die a double death: mankind, incens'd,
Denies thee long to live: nor ſhalt thou reſt,
When thou art dead; in *Stygian* ſhades arraign'd
By *Lucifer*, as traitor to his throne;
And bold blaſphemer of his friend,——*the world;*
The *world*, whoſe legions coſt him ſlender pay,
And *volunteers*, around his banner ſwarm;
Prudent, as *Pruſſia*, in her zeal for *Gaul*.
"Are all, then, fools?" *Lorenzo* cries.—Yes, all,
But ſuch as hold *this* doctrine (new to thee;)
"The mother of true wiſdom is the *will*;'

The nobleſt *intellect*, a fool without it.
World-wiſdom much has done, and more may do,
In arts and ſciences, in wars, and peace;
But art and ſcience, like thy wealth, will leave thee,
And make thee twice a beggar at thy death.
This is the *moſt* indulgence can afford;——
"*Thy wiſdom all can do, but—make thee wiſe.*"
Nor think this cenſure is ſevere on thee;
Satan, thy maſter, I dare call a dunce.

NIGHT THE NINTH AND LAST.

THE

CONSOLATION.

Containing, among other Things,

I. A *moral* Survey of the *nocturnal* Heavens.

II. A NIGHT ADDRESS to the DEITY.

HUMBLY INSCRIBED

To his GRACE the DUKE of *NEWCASTLE*,
One of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

— *Fatis contraria fata rependens.* VIRG.

THE CONSOLATION.

NIGHT THE NINTH AND LAST.

AS when a traveller, a long day paſt
In painful ſearch of what he cannot find,
At night's approach, content with the next cot,
There ruminates, a while, his labour loſt;
Then chears his heart with what his fate affords,
And chants his ſonnet to deceive the time,
Till the due ſeaſon calls him to repoſe:
Thus I, long-travell'd in the ways of men,
And dancing, with the reſt, the giddy maze,
Where *diſappointment* ſmiles at *hope*'s career;
Warn'd by the languor of life's ev'ning ray,
At length have hous'd me in an humble ſhed,
Where, future wand'rings baniſh'd from my thought,
And waiting, patient, the ſweet hour of reſt,
I chace the moments with a ſerious ſong.
Song ſoothes our pains; and age has pains to ſoothe.
When age, care, crime, and friends embrac'd at heart,
Torn from my bleeding breaſt, and *death*'s dark ſhade,
Which hovers o'er me, quench th' ethereal fire;
Canſt thou, O *Night*! indulge one labour more?
One labour more indulge: then ſleep, my ſtrain!
Till, haply, wak'd by *Raphael*'s golden lyre,
Where night, death, age, care, crime, and ſorrow, ceaſe;

To bear a part in everlasting lays;
Tho' far, far higher set, in aim, I trust,
Symphonious to this humble prelude *here*.
Has not the muse asserted *pleasures pure*,
Like those above; exploding other joys?
Weigh what was urg'd, *Lorenzo!* fairly weigh;
And tell me, hast thou cause to triumph still?
I think, thou wilt forbear a boast so bold.
But if, beneath the favour of mistake,
Thy smile's sincere; not more sincere can be
Lorenzo's smile, than my compassion for him.
The sick in *body* call for aid; the sick
In *mind* are covetous of more disease;
And when at *worst*, they dream themselves quite *well*.
To *know* ourselves diseas'd, is half our cure.
When *nature*'s blush, by *custom*, is wip'd off,
And conscience, deaden'd by repeated strokes,
Has into *manners* naturaliz'd our *crimes*;
The curse of curses is, our curse to love;
To triumph in the blackness of our guilt,
(As *Indians* glory in the deepest jet;)
And throw aside our *senses*, with our *peace*.
But, grant no guilt, no shame, no least alloy;
Grant joy and glory, quite unsully'd, shone;
Yet, still, it ill deserves *Lorenzo*'s heart.
No *joy*, no *glory*, glitters in thy sight,
But, thro' the thin partition of an hour,
I see its sables wove by *destiny*;
And *that* in sorrow bury'd; *this*, in shame;
While howling *furies* ring the doleful knell;
And *conscience*, now so soft, thou scarce canst hear

Her whiſper, echoes her eternal peal.
Where, the prime actors of the *laſt year*'s ſcene;
Their port ſo proud, their buſkin, and their plume?
How many *ſleep*, who kept the world *awake*
With luſtre, and with noiſe! has *death* proclaim'd
A truce, and hung his fated lance on high?
'Tis brandiſh'd ſtill, nor ſhall the *preſent year*
Be more tenacious of her human leaf,
Or ſpread of feeble life a thinner fall.
But needleſs *monuments* to wake the thought;
Life's *gayeſt* ſcenes ſpeak man's mortality;
Tho' in a ſtile more florid, full as plain,
As *mauſoleums*, *pyramids*, and *tombs*.
What are our nobleſt ornaments, but *deaths*
Turn'd flatterers of life, in paint, or marble,
The well-ſtain'd canvas, or the featur'd ſtone?
Our fathers grace, or rather haunt, the ſcene;
Joy peoples her pavilion from the dead.
"*Profeſt diverſions!* cannot theſe eſcape?"—
Far from it: theſe preſent us with a ſhroud;
And talk of *death*, like garlands o'er a grave.
As ſome bold plunderers, for bury'd *wealth*,
We ranſack tombs for *paſtime*; from the duſt
Call up the ſleeping hero; bid him tread
The ſcene for our amuſement: how like gods
We ſit; and, wrapt in immortality,
Shed gen'rous tears on wretches born to die;
Their fate deploring, to forget *our own!*
What, all the pomps, and triumphs of our lives,
But legacies in bloſſom? Our lean ſoil,
Luxuriant grown, and rank in vanities,
From friends interr'd beneath; a rich manure,

Like other worms, we banquet on the dead;
Like other worms, ſhall we crawl on, nor know
Our preſent frailties, or approaching fate?
Lorenzo! ſuch the glories of the world!
What is the world itſelf? *Thy* world?—A grave!
Where is the duſt that has not been alive?
The ſpade, the plough, diſturb our anceſtors;
From human mould we reap our daily bread.
The globe around earth's hollow ſurface ſhakes,
And is the ceiling of her ſleeping ſons.
O'er devaſtation we blind revels keep;
Whole bury'd towns ſupport the dancer's heel.
The *moiſt* of human frame the ſun exhales;
Winds ſcatter, thro' the mighty void, the *dry*;
Earth repoſſeſſes part of what ſhe gave;
And the freed ſpirit mounts on wings of fire;
Each element partakes our ſcatter'd ſpoils;
As nature, wide, our ruins ſpread: man's *death*
Inhabits all things, but the thought of man.
Nor man alone; his breathing buſt expires,
His tomb is mortal; empires die: where, now,
The *Roman? Greek?* they ſtalk, an empty name!
Yet few regard them in this uſeful light;
Tho' half our learning is *their* epitaph.
When down thy vale, unlock'd by midnight thought,
That loves to wander in thy ſunleſs realms,
O *death!* I ſtretch my view; what viſions riſe!
What triumphs! toils imperial! arts divine!
In wither'd laurels, glide before my ſight?
What lengths of far-fam'd ages, billow'd high
With human agitation, roll along
In unſubſtantial images of air!

The melancholy ghoſts of dead renown,
Whiſp'ring faint echoes of the world's applauſe,
With penitential aſpect, as they paſs,
All point at earth, and hiſs at human pride,
The wiſdom of the *wiſe*, and prancings of the *great*.
But O *Lorenzo!* far the reſt above
Of ghaſtly nature, and enormous ſize,
One form aſſaults my ſight, and chills my blood,
And ſhakes my frame. Of *one* departed world
I ſee the mighty ſhadow; oozy wreath
And diſmal ſea-weed crown her; o'er her urn
Reclin'd, ſhe weeps her deſolated realms,
And bloated ſons; and, weeping, propheſies
Another's diſſolution, ſoon, in flames.
But, like *Caſſandra*, propheſies in vain;
In vain, to many; not, I truſt, to thee.
For, know'ſt thou not, or art thou *loth* to know,
The great decree, the counſel of the ſkies?
Deluge and *conflagration*, dreadful powers!
Prime miniſters of vengeance! chain'd in caves
Diſtinct, apart the giant furies roar;
Apart; or ſuch their horrid rage for ruin,
In mutual conflict would they riſe, and wage
Eternal war, till one was quite devour'd.
But not for *this*, ordain'd their boundleſs rage;
When Heav'n's inferior inſtruments of wrath,
War, *famine*, *peſtilence*, are found too weak
To ſcourge a world for her enormous crimes,
Theſe are let looſe, alternate: down they ruſh,
Swift and tempeſtuous, from th' eternal throne
With irreſiſtible commiſſion arm'd,
The world, in vain corrected, to deſtroy,

And eaſe creation of the ſhocking ſcene.
Seeſt thou *Lorenzo!* what depends *on* man?
The *fate* of nature; as *for* man, her *birth.*
Earth's actors change earth's tranſitory ſcenes,
And make creation groan with human guilt.
How muſt it groan, in a new deluge whelm'd,
But not of waters! At the deſtin'd hour,
By the loud trumpet ſummon'd to the charge,
See, all the formidable ſons of fire,
Eruptions, earthquakes, comets, lightnings, play
Their various engines; all at once diſgorge
Their blazing magazines; and take, by ſtorm,
This poor terreſtrial citadel of man.
Amazing period! when each mountain-height
Out-burns *Veſuvius;* rocks eternal pour
Their melted maſs, as rivers once they pour'd;
Stars ruſh; and final *ruin* fiercely drives
Her ploughſhare o'er creation!——while aloft,
More than aſtoniſhment! if more *can* be!
Far other *firmament* than e'er was ſeen,
Than e'er was thought by man! far other ſtars!
Stars animate, that govern theſe of fire;
Far other *ſun!*——a ſun, O how unlike
The babe at *Bethle'm!* How unlike the man
That groan'd on *Calvary*——Yet *He* it is;
That man of ſorrows! O how chang'd! what pomp!
In grandeur terrible, all heav'n deſcends!
And gods, ambitious, triumph in his train.
A ſwift archangel, with his golden wing,
As blots and clouds, that darken and diſgrace
The ſcene divine, ſweeps ſtars and ſuns aſide.
And now, all droſs remov'd, heav'n's own pure day,

Full on the confines of our æther, flames.
While (dreadful contraſt!) far, how far beneath!
Hell burſting, belches forth her blazing ſeas,
And ſtorms ſulphureous; her voracious jaws
Expanding wide, and roaring for her prey.
Lorenzo! welcome to this ſcene; the laſt
In nature's courſe; the firſt in wiſdom's thought.
This ſtrikes, if aught can ſtrike thee; *this* awakes
The moſt ſupine; *this* ſnatches man from death.
Rouze, rouze, *Lorenzo!* then, and follow me,
Where truth, the moſt momentous man can hear,
Loud calls my ſoul, and ardor wings her flight.
I find my inſpiration in my theme;
The grandeur of my ſubject is my muſe.
At *midnight*, when mankind is wrapt in *peace*,
And worldly *fancy* feeds on golden dreams,
To give more dread to man's moſt dreadful hour,
At midnight, 'tis preſum'd, this pomp will burſt
From tenfold darkneſs; ſudden as the ſpark
From ſmitten ſteel; from nitrous grain, the blaze.
Man, ſtarting from his couch, ſhall ſleep no more!
The day is broke, which never more ſhall cloſe!
Above, around, beneath, amazement all!
Terror and glory join'd in their extremes?
Our GOD in grandeur, and our *world* on fire!
All nature ſtruggling in the pangs of death!
Doſt thou not hear her? doſt thou not deplore
Her ſtrong convulſions, and her final groan?
Where are we *now?* Ah me! the ground is gone,
On which we ſtood, *Lorenzo!* while thou may'ſt,
Provide more firm ſupport, or ſink for ever!
Where? how? from whence? vain hope! it is too late!

Where, where, for ſhelter, ſhall the guilty fly,
When conſternation turns the *good man* pale!
Great day! for which all other days were made;
For which *earth* roſe from *chaos*; *man* from *earth*
And an eternity, the date of gods,
Deſcended on poor earth-created man!
Great day of dread, deciſion, and deſpair!
At thought of thee, each ſublunary wiſh
Lets go its eager graſp, and drops the world;
And catches at each reed of hope in heav'n.
At *thought* of thee!—and art thou *abſent*, then?
Lorenzo! no; 'tis here;——it is begun;——
Already is begun the grand aſſize,
In thee, in all: deputed conſcience ſcales
The dread tribunal, and foreſtals our doom;
Foreſtals; and, by foreſtalling, proves it *ſure*.
Why on himſelf ſhould man *void* judgement paſs
Is idle *nature* laughing at her ſons;
Who *conſcience* ſent, her ſentence will ſupport,
And GOD above aſſert that GOD in man.

Thrice happy they! that enter *now* the court
Heav'n opens in their boſoms: but, how rare!
Ah me! that magnanimity, how rare!
What hero, like the man who ſtands himſelf?
Who dares to meet his naked heart alone?
Who hears, intrepid, the full charge it brings,
Reſolv'd to ſilence future murmurs there?
The coward flies; and flying, is undone.
(Art thou a coward? no:) the coward flies;
Thinks, but thinks ſlightly; aſks, but fears to *know*;
Aſks, "*What is Truth?*" with *Pilate*; and retires
Diſſolves the court, and mingles with the throng.

Aſylum ſad! from reaſon, hope, and heav'n!
Shall all, but man, look out with ardent eye,
For that great day, which was ordain'd *for* man?
O day of conſummation! mark ſupreme
(If men are wiſe) of human thought! nor leaſt,
Or in the ſight of angels, or their KING!
Angels, whoſe radiant circles, height o'er height,
Order o'er order riſing, blaze o'er blaze,
As in a theatre, ſurround this ſcene,
Intent on man and anxious for his fate.
Angels look out for thee; for thee, their LORD,
To vindicate his glory; and for thee,
Creation univerſal calls aloud,
To diſ-involve the *moral* world, and give
To *nature's* renovation brighter charms.
Shall man alone, whoſe fate, whoſe *final* fate,
Hangs on that hour, exclude it from his thought?
I think of nothing elſe; I ſee! I feel it!
All *nature*, like an earthquake, trembling round!
All *deities*, like ſummer ſwarms, on wing!
All baſking in the full meridian blaze!
I ſee the JUDGE enthron'd! the flaming guard!
The volume open'd! open'd every heart!
A ſun-beam pointing out each ſecret thought:
No patron! interceſſor none! now paſt
The ſweet, the clement, mediatorial hour!
For guilt no plea! to pain, no pauſe! no bound!
Inexorable all! and all, extreme!
Nor man alone; the foe of GOD and man,
From his dark den, blaſpheming, drags his chain,
And rears his brazen front, with thunder ſcar'd;
Receives his ſentence, and *begins* his hell.

All vengeance *paſt*, now, ſeems abundant grace,
Like meteors in a ſtormy ſky, how roll
His baleful eyes! he curſes whom he dreads;
And deems it the firſt moment of his fall.
'Tis *preſent* to my thought!——and, yet, where is it?
Angels can't tell me; angels cannot *gueſs*
The *period*; from *created* beings lock'd
In darkneſs. But the *proceſs*, and the *place*,
Are leſs obſcure; for theſe may *man* inquire.
Say, thou great cloſe of human hopes and fears!
Great key of hearts! great finiſher of fates!
Great end! and great beginning! ſay, where art thou!
Art thou in *time*, or in *eternity*?
Nor in *eternity*, nor *time*, I find thee.
Theſe, as two monarchs, on their borders meet,
(Monarchs of all elaps'd, or unarriv'd!)
As in debate, how beſt their pow'rs ally'd
May ſwell the grandeur, or diſcharge the wrath,
Of HIM, whom both their monarchies obey.
Time, this vaſt fabric for him built, and doom'd
With him to fall) *now* burſting o'er his head;
His lamp, the ſun, extinguiſh'd; from beneath
The frown of hideous darkneſs, calls his ſons
From their long ſlumber; from earth's heaving womb,
To ſecond birth; contemporary throng!
Rous'd at one call, upſtarting from one bed,
Preſs'd in one croud, appal'd with one amaze,
He turns them o'er, *eternity!* to *thee*.
Then (as a king depos'd diſdains to live)

He falls on his own ſcythe; nor falls *alone*:
His greateſt foe falls with him; *time*, and he
Who murder'd all *time*'s offſpring, *death*, expire.
Time was! eternity now reigns alone!
Awful eternity! offended queen!
And her reſentment to mankind, how juſt!
With kind intent ſoliciting acceſs,
How often has ſhe knock'd at human hearts!
Rich to repay their hoſpitality,
How often call'd! and with the voice of GOD!
Yet bore repulſe, excluded as a cheat;
A dream! while ſouleſt foes found welcome *there!*
A dream, a cheat, *now*, all things, but *her* ſmile.
For, lo! her twice ten thouſand gates thrown wide,
As thrice from *Indus* to the frozen pole,
With banners, ſtreaming as the *comet*'s blaze,
And clarions, louder than the *deep* in ſtorms,
Sonorous, as immortal breath can blow,
Pour forth their myriads, potentates, and powers,
Of light, and darkneſs; in a middle field!
Wide, as *creation!* populous, as wide:
A neutral region! there to mark th' event
Of that great drama, whoſe preceding ſcenes
Detain'd them cloſe ſpectators, thro' a length
Of ages, ripening to this grand reſult;
Ages, as yet unnumber'd, but by GOD;
Who, now, pronouncing ſentence, vindicates
The rights of virtue, and his own renown.
Eternity, the various ſentence paſt,
Aſſigns the ſever'd throng diſtinct abodes,
Sulphureous, or ambroſial: what enſues?
The deed predominant! the deed of deeds!

Which makes a hell of hell, a heaven of heaven.
The *goddeſs*, with determin'd aſpect, turns
Her adamantine key's enormous ſize
Thro' deſtiny's inextricable wards,
Deep-driving ev'ry bolt, on both their fates.
Then from the chryſtal battlements of heav'n
Down, down, ſhe hurls it thro' the dark profound,
Ten thouſand thouſand fathom; there to ruſt,
And ne'er unlock her reſolution more.
The deep reſounds; and hell, thro' all her glooms,
Returns, in groans, the melancholy roar.
O how unlike the chorus of the ſkies!
O how unlike thoſe ſhouts of joy, that ſhake
The whole *Ethereal!* how the concave rings!
Nor ſtrange! when deities their voice exalt;
And louder far, than when *creation* roſe,
To ſee *creation*'s godlike aim, and end,
So well accompliſh'd! ſo divinely clos'd!
To ſee the mighty *dramatiſt*'s laſt act
(As meet) in glory riſing o'er the reſt.
No fancy'd GOD, a GOD *indeed*, deſcends
To ſolve all *knots*; to ſtrike the *moral* home;
To throw full day on darkeſt ſcenes of *time*;
To clear, commend, exalt, and crown, the whole.
Hence, in one peal of loud, eternal praiſe,
The charm'd ſpectators thunder their applauſe;
And the vaſt void beyond, applauſe reſounds.
WHAT THEN 'M I——
Amidſt applauding worlds,
And worlds celeſtial, is there found on earth,
A peeviſh, diſſonant, rebellious ſtring,
Which jars in the grand chorus, and *complains*?

Cenſure on *thee*, *Lorenzo!* I ſuſpend,
And turn it on *myſelf*; how greatly due!
All, all is *right*, by GOD ordain'd, or done;
And who, but GOD, reſum'd the friends *He* gave?
And have I been *complaining*, then, ſo long?
Complaining of his *favours*; *pain*, and *death?*
Who, without *pain*'s advice, would e'er be good?
Who, without *death*, but would be good in vain?
Pain is to ſave from *pain*; all puniſhment,
To make for *peace*; and death to ſave from *death*;
And ſecond death, to guard immortal life;
To rouſe the careleſs, the preſumptuous awe,
And turn the tide of ſouls another way;
By the ſame tenderneſs divine ordain'd,
That planted *Eden*, and high-bloom'd for man,
A fairer *Eden*, endleſs, in the ſkies.
Heaven gives us friends to bleſs the *preſent* ſcene;
Reſumes them, to prepare us for the *next*.
All evils *natural* are *moral* goods;
All diſcipline, *indulgence*, on the whole.
None are unhappy; *all* have cauſe to ſmile,
But ſuch as to themſelves that cauſe deny.
Our *faults* are at the bottom of our *pains*;
Error, in *act*, or *judgement*, is the ſource
Of endleſs ſighs: we *ſin*, or we *miſtake*,
And *nature* tax, when falſe *opinion* ſtings.
Let impious grief be baniſh'd, joy indulg'd;
But chiefly *then*, when grief puts in her claim.
Joy from the *joyous*, frequently betrays,
Oft lives in vanity, and dies in woe.
Joy, *amidſt ills*, corroborates, exalts;
'Tis joy, and conqueſt; joy, and virtue too.

A noble fortitude in *ills* delights
Heav'n, earth, ourſelves; 'tis duty, glory, peace.
Affliction is the good man's ſhining ſcene;
Proſperity conceals his brighteſt ray;
As *night* to ſtars, *woe* luſtre gives to man.
Heroes in battle, pilots in the ſtorm,
And virtue in calamities, admire.
The crown of manhood is a winter-joy;
An ever-green, that ſtands the *northern* blaſt,
And bloſſoms in the rigour of our fate.
'Tis a prime part of happineſs, to know
How much unhappineſs *muſt* prove our lot;
A part which few poſſeſs! I'll pay life's tax,
Without one rebel murmur, from this hour,
Nor think it miſery to be a *man*;
Who thinks *it is*, ſhall never be a *God*.
Some ills we wiſh for, when we wiſh to live.
What ſpoke *proud paſſion?*—" * Wiſh my being
loſt!"
Preſumptuous! blaſphemous! abſurd! and falſe!
The triumph of my ſoul is,—that I *am*;
And therefore that I *may* be—*what? Lorenzo!*
Look inward, and look deep; and deeper ſtill;
Unfathomably deep our treaſure runs
In golden veins, thro' all eternity!
Ages, and ages, and ſucceeding ſtill
New ages, where this phantom of an hour,
Which courts, each night, dull ſlumber for repair,
Shall wake, and wonder, and exult, and praiſe,
And fly thro' infinite, and all unlock;
And (if deſerv'd) by Heav'n's redundant love,

* Referring to Night the Firſt.

Made half-adorable itſelf, adore;
And find, in adoration, endleſs joy!
Where thou, not maſter of a moment *here*,
Frail as the flow'r, and fleeting as the gale,
May'ſt boaſt a *whole eternity*, enrich'd
With all a *kind Omnipotence* can pour.
Since *Adam* fell, no mortal, uninſpir'd,
Has ever yet conceiv'd, or ever ſhall,
How kind is GOD, how great, (if good) is *man*.
No man too largely from Heav'n's love can hope,
If what is *hop'd* he labours to *ſecure*.
Ills?--there are none: *All-gracious!* none from *thee*;
From *man* full many! num'rous is the race
Of blackeſt ills, and thoſe immortal too,
Begot by *madneſs* on fair *liberty*;
Heav'n's daughter, hell-debauch'd! *her* hand alone
Unlocks deſtruction to the ſons of men,
Faſt barr'd by *thine*; high-wall'd with adamant,
Guarded with terrors reaching to this world,
And cover'd with the thunders of thy law;
Whoſe threats are *mercies*, whoſe injunctions, *guides*,
Aſſiſting, not reſtraining, *reaſon*'s choice;
Whoſe ſanctions, *unavoidable reſults*
From nature's courſe, indulgently reveal'd;
If unreveal'd, more dang'rous, not leſs ſure.
Thus, an indulgent father warns his ſons,
"Do this; fly that,"—nor always tells the cauſe;
Pleas'd to reward, as duty to his will,
A conduct needful to their own repoſe.

Great GOD of wonders! (if, thy *love* ſurvey'd
Aught elſe the name of wonderful retains)
What *rocks* are *theſe*, on which to build our truſt?

Thy ways admit no blemiſh; none I find;
Or this alone—"*That none is to be found.*
Not one, to ſoften *cenſure*'s hardy crime;
Not one, to palliate peeviſh *grief*'s COMPLAINT,
Who, like a *dæmon*, murm'ring from the duſt,
Dares into judgement call her judge.—*Supreme!*
For *all* I bleſs thee; moſt, for the *ſevere*;
* *Her* death—*my own* at hand—the fiery gulph,
That flaming bound of wrath omnipotent!
It thunders;——but it thunders to preſerve;
It ſtrengthens what it ſtrikes; its wholeſome dread
Averts the dreaded pain; its hideous groans
Join heav'n's ſweet hallelujah's in *thy* praiſe,
Great Source of good *alone*! how kind in all!
In vengeance, kind! *pain*, *death*, *Gehenna*, SAVE.
Thus, in thy world material, *mighty Mind!*
Not that alone which *ſolaces*, and *ſhines*,
The *rough* and *gloomy*, challenges our praiſe.
The *winter* is as needful as the *ſpring*;
The *thunder*, as the *ſun*; a ſtagnant maſs
Of vapours breeds a peſtilential air;
Nor more propitious the *Favonian* breeze
To nature's health, than purifying ſtorms;
The dread *Volcano* miniſters to good.
Its ſmother'd flames might undermine the world.
Loud *Ætnas* fulminate in love to man;
Comets good omens are, when duly ſcann'd;
And, in their uſe, *eclipſes* learn to ſhine.
Man is reſponſible for *ills* receiv'd;
Thoſe we call *wretched* are a choſen band,
Compell'd to refuge in the *right*, for peace.

* *Lucia.*

Amidſt my liſt of bleſſings infinite,
Stand this the foremoſt, "*That my heart has bled.*"
'Tis Heav'n's laſt effort of good-will to man;
When *pain* can't bleſs, Heav'n quits us in deſpair.
Who fails to grieve, when juſt occaſion calls,
Or grieves too much, deſerves not to be bleſt;
Inhuman, or effeminate, his heart;
Reaſon abſolves the grief, which *reaſon* ends.
May Heav'n ne'er truſt my friend with happineſs,
Till it has taught him how to bear it well,
By previous pain; and made it *ſafe* to *ſmile*!
Such ſmiles are mine, and *ſuch* may they remain;
Nor hazard their extinction, from exceſs.
My change of *heart* a change of *ſtile* demands;
The CONSOLATION cancels the COMPLAINT,
And makes a convert of my guilty ſong.
As when o'er-labour'd, and inclin'd to breathe,
A panting traveller, ſome riſing ground,
Some ſmall aſcent, has gain'd, he turns him round,
And meaſures with his eye the various vale,
The fields, woods, meads, and rivers he has paſt;
And, ſatiate of his journey, thinks of home,
Endear'd by diſtance, nor affects more toil;
Thus I, though ſmall, indeed, is that aſcent
The muſe has gain'd, review the paths ſhe trod;
Various, extenſive, beaten but by few;
And, conſcious of her prudence in repoſe,
Pauſe; and with pleaſure meditate an end,
Though ſtill remote; ſo fruitful is my theme.
Through many a field of *moral*, and *divine*,
The muſe has ſtray'd; and much of *ſorrow* ſeen
In human ways; and much of *falſe* and *vain*:

Which none, who travel this bad road, can miſs.
O'er *friends deceas'd* full heartily ſhe wept;
Of *love divine* the wonders ſhe diſplay'd;
Prov'd man *immortal*; ſhew'd the *ſource of joy*;
The *grand tribunal* rais'd; aſſign'd the bounds
Of *human grief*: in *few*, to cloſe the whole,
The moral muſe has ſhadow'd out a ſketch,
Tho, not in form, nor with a *Raphael*-ſtroke,
Of *moſt* our weakneſs needs *believe*, or *do*,
In this our land of travel, and of hope,
For peace on *earth*, or proſpect of the *ſkies*.
What then remains?—Much! much! a mighty debt
To be diſcharg'd: theſe thoughts, O *Night!* are thine
From thee they came, like lovers ſecret ſighs,
While others ſlept. So, *Cynthia* (poets feign)
In ſhadows veil'd, ſoft-ſliding from her ſphere,
Her ſhepherd chear'd; of her enamour'd leſs,
Than I of thee.——And art thou ſtill unſung,
Beneath whoſe brow, and by whoſe aid, I ſing?
Immortal ſilence!——Where ſhall I begin?
Where end? or how ſteal muſic from the ſpheres,
To ſoothe their goddeſs?
O majeſtic *Night!*
Nature's great anceſtor! *day*'s elder-born!
And fated to ſurvive the tranſient ſun!
By mortals, and immortals, ſeen with awe!
A ſtarry crown thy raven-brow adorns,
An azure zone, thy waſte; clouds, in heav'n's loom
Wrought thro' varieties of ſhape and ſhade,
In ample folds of drapery divine,
Thy flowing mantle form, and, heav'n throughout,
Voluminouſly pour thy pompous train.

Thy gloomy grandeurs (*nature*'s moſt auguſt,
Inſpiring aſpect!) claim a grateful verſe;
And like a ſable curtain ſtarr'd with gold,
Drawn o'er my labours paſt, ſhall cloſe the ſcene.
And what, O man! ſo *worthy* to be ſung?
What more prepares us for the ſongs of heav'n?
Creation of archangels is the theme!
What to be ſung, ſo *needful?* what ſo well
Celeſtial joys prepares us to ſuſtain?
The ſoul of man, HIS face deſign'd to ſee,
Who gave theſe wonders to be ſeen by man,
Has *here* a previous ſcene of objects *great*,
On which to dwell; to ſtretch to that expanſe
Of thought, to riſe to that exalted height
Of admiration, to contract that awe,
And give her whole capacities that ſtrength,
Which beſt may qualify for *final* joy.
The more our ſpirits are enlarg'd on *earth*,
The deeper draught ſhall they receive of *heav'n*.
Heav'n's King! whoſe face unveil'd conſummates bliſs!
Redundant bliſs! which fills that mighty void,
The whole creation leaves in human hearts!
Thou who didſt touch the lip of *Jeſſe*'s ſon,
Wrapt in ſweet contemplation of theſe fires,
And ſet his harp in concert with the ſpheres!
While of thy works *material* the ſupreme
I dare attempt, aſſiſt my daring ſong.
Looſe me from *earth*'s incloſure, from the *ſun*'s
Contracted circle ſet my heart at large;
Eliminate my ſpirit, give it range
Through provinces of thought yet unexplor'd?

Teach me, by this ſtupendous ſcaffolding,
Creation's golden ſteps, to climb to Thee.
Teach me with *art* great *nature* to controul,
And ſpread a luſtre o'er the ſhades of *night*.
Feel I thy kind aſſent? and ſhall the *ſun*
Be ſeen at *midnight*, riſing in my ſong?
Lorenzo! come and warm thee: thou, whoſe heart,
Whoſe *little* heart is moor'd within a nook
Of this obſcure terreſtrial, anchor weigh.
Another ocean calls a *nobler* port;
I am thy pilot, *I* thy proſperous gale.
Gainful thy voyage through yon azure main;
Main, without tempeſt, pirate, rock, or ſhore;
And whence thou may'ſt import *eternal* wealth;
And leave to *beggar'd* minds the *pearl* and *gold*.
Thy travels doſt thou boaſt o'er foreign realms?
Thou *ſtranger* to the *world!* thy tour *begin*;
Thy tour through *nature's* univerſal orb.
Nature delineates her whole chart at large,
On ſoaring ſouls, that ſail among the ſpheres;
And *man* how purblind, if unknown the whole?
Who circles ſpacious *earth*, then travels *here*,
Shall own, he never was from *home* before!
Come, my * *Prometheus*, from thy pointed rock
Of *falſe* ambition if unchain'd, we'll mount;
We'll, *innocently*, ſteal celeſtial fire,
And kindle our devotion at the *ſtars*;
A theft that ſhall not chain, but ſet thee free.
Above our atmoſphere's inteſtine wars,
Rain's fountain-head, the magazine of hail,

* Night the Eighth.

Above the northern neſts of feather'd ſnows,
The brew of thunders, and the flaming forge
That forms the crooked light'ning; 'bove the caves
Where infant tempeſts wait their growing wings,
And tune their tender voices to that roar,
Which ſoon, perhaps, ſhall ſhake a guilty world;
Above miſconſtru'd omens of the ſky,
Far-travell'd comets' calculated blaze,
Elance thy thought, and think of *more* than *man*.
Thy ſoul, till now, contracted, wither'd, ſhrunk,
Blighted by blaſts of *earth*'s unwholſome air,
Will bloſſom *here*; ſpread all her faculties
To theſe bright ardours; ev'ry power unfold,
And riſe into ſublimities of thought;
Stars *teach*, as well as *ſhine*. At *nature*'s birth,
Thus, their commiſſion ran—"Be kind to *man*."
Where art thou, poor benighted traveller!
The *ſtars* will light thee; tho' the *moon* ſhould fail.
Where art thou, more benighted! more aſtray!
In ways immoral? the *ſtars* call thee back;
And, if obey'd their counſel, ſet thee right.
This proſpect vaſt, what is it?—weigh'd aright,
'Tis nature's ſyſtem of divinity,
And ev'ry ſtudent of the *night* inſpires.
'Tis *elder* ſcripture, writ by God's own hand;
Scripture authentic! uncorrupt by man.
Lorenzo! with my *radius* (the rich gift
Of thought nocturnal:) I'll point out to thee
Its various leſſons; ſome that may ſurpriſe
An un-adept in myſteries of *night*;
Little, perhaps, expected in *her* ſchool,
Nor thought to grow on planet, or on ſtar.

Bulls, lions, ſcorpions, monſters here we feign;
Ourſelves more monſtrous, not to ſee what here
Exiſts *indeed*;—a lecture to mankind.
What read we *here*?—th' exiſtence of a GOD?—
Yes; and of other beings, man above;
Natives of *Ether!* ſons of higher climes!
And, what may move *Lorenzo*'s wonder more,
Eternity is written in the ſkies.
And whoſe eternity?—*Lorenzo! thine;*
Mankind's eternity. Nor *faith* alone,
Virtue grows here; *here* ſprings the ſov'reign cure
Of almoſt ev'ry vice; but chiefly *thine*;
Wrath, pride, ambition, and *impure deſire.*
Lorenzo! thou canſt wake at midnight too,
Tho' not on *morals* bent: *ambition, pleaſure!*
Thoſe tyrants I for thee ſo * lately fought,
Afford their haraſs'd ſlaves but ſlender reſt.
Thou, to whom midnight is *immoral* noon,
And the ſun's noon-tide blaze, prime dawn of day;
Not by thy climate, but capricious crime,
Commencing one of our *Antipodes!*
In thy nocturnal rove, one moment halt,
'Twixt ſtage and ſtage, of riot, and cabal;
And lift thine eye, (if bold an eye to lift,
If bold, to meet the face of injur'd Heav'n)
To yonder ſtars: for other ends they ſhine,
Than to light revellers from ſhame to ſhame,
And, thus, be made accomplices in guilt.
Why from yon arch, that infinite of ſpace,
With infinite of lucid orbs replete,
Which ſet the living firmament on fire,

* Night the Eighth.

At the firſt glance, in ſuch an overwhelm
Of wonderful, on man's aſtoniſh'd ſight,
Ruſhes *Omnipotence?*——to curb our *pride*;
Our *reaſon* rouſe, and lead it to that Pow'r,
Whoſe love lets down theſe ſilver chains of light;
To draw up man's *ambition* to *himſelf*,
And bind our *chaſte affections* to his throne.
Thus the three virtues leaſt alive on earth,
And welcom'd on heav'n's coaſt with moſt applauſe,
An *humble*, *pure*, and *heav'nly-minded* heart,
Are *here* inſpir'd:---and canſt thou gaze too long?
Nor ſtands thy *wrath* depriv'd of its reproof,
Or un-upbraided by this radiant choir.
The planets of each ſyſtem repreſent
Kind neighbours? mutual amity prevails;
Sweet interchange of rays, receiv'd, return'd;
Enlight'ning, and enlighten'd! all, at once,
Attracting, and attracted! patriot-like,
None ſins againſt the welfare of the whole;
But their reciprocal, unſelfiſh aid,
Affords an emblem of *millenial* love.
Nothing in nature, much leſs *conſcious* being,
Was e'er created ſolely for itſelf:
Thus man his *ſov'reign* duty learns in this
Material picture of benevolence.
And know, of all our ſupercilious race,
Thou moſt inflammable! thou waſp of men!
Man's angry heart, *inſpected*, would be found
As rightly ſet, as are the ſtarry ſpheres;
'Tis *nature's* ſtructure, broke by ſtubborn *will*,
Breeds all that un-celeſtial diſcord *there*.
Wilt thou not feel the bias *nature* gave?

Canſt thou deſcend from converſe with the ſkies,
And ſeize thy brother's throat?---for what---a *clod*,
An inch of *earth?* the *planets* cry, "Forbear:"
They chace our double darkneſs; *nature*'s gloom,
And (kinder ſtill!) our *intellectual* night.
And ſee, *day*'s amiable ſiſter ſends
Her invitation, in the ſofteſt rays
Of mitigated luſtre; courts thy ſight,
Which ſuffers from her tyrant-brother's blaze.
Night grants thee the full freedom of the ſkies,
Nor rudely reprimands thy lifted eye;
With *gain* and *joy*, ſhe bribes thee to be wiſe.
Night opes the nobleſt ſcenes, and ſheds an awe,
Which gives thoſe venerable ſcenes full weight,
And deep reception, in th' intender'd heart;
While light peeps thro' the darkneſs, like a ſpy;
And darkneſs ſhews its grandeur by the light.
Nor is the *profit* greater than the *joy*,
If human hearts at glorious objects glow,
And admiration can inſpire delight.
What ſpeak I more, than I, this moment, feel?
With pleaſing ſtupor firſt the ſoul is ſtruck,
(Stupor ordain'd to make her truly wiſe!)
Then into tranſport ſtarting from her trance,
With love and admiration how ſhe glows!
This gorgeous apparatus! this diſplay!
This oſtentation of creative power!
This theatre!——what eye can take it in?
By what divine inchantment was it rais'd,
For minds of the firſt magnitude to launch
In endleſs ſpeculation, and adore?
One ſun by day, by night *ten thouſand* ſhine;

And light us deep into the DEITY,
How boundleſs in magnificence and might!
O what a confluence of ethereal fires,
From urns unnumber'd, down the ſteep of heav'n,
Streams to a point, and centers in my ſight!
Nor tarries *there*; I feel it at my *heart*.
My heart at once it humbles, and exalts;
Lays it in duſt, and calls it to the ſkies.
Who ſees it unexalted, or unaw'd?
Who ſees it, and can ſtop at what is ſeen?
Material offſpring of *Omnipotence!*
Inanimate, all-animating birth!
Work worthy *him* who made it! worthy praiſe!
All praiſe! praiſe *more* than human! nor deny'd
Thy praiſe *divine!*---But tho' man, drown'd in ſleep,
With-holds his homage, not *alone* I wake:
Bright legions ſwarm unſeen, and ſing unheard
By mortal ear, the glorious Architect,
In this his univerſal temple, hung
With luſtres, with innumerable lights,
That ſhed religion on the ſoul; at once,
The *temple*, and the *preacher!* O how loud
It calls devotion! genuine growth of *night!*
Devotion! daughter of aſtronomy!
An *undevout* aſtronomer is *mad*.
True; all things ſpeak a GOD; but in the ſmall,
Men trace out *him*; in great, *he* ſeizes man;
Seizes, and elevates, and raps, and fills
With new inquiries, 'mid aſſociates new.
Tell me, ye ſtars! ye planets! tell me all
Ye ſtarr'd, and planeted, inhabitants! what is it?
What are theſe ſons of wonder? Say, proud arch!

(Within thoſe azure palaces they dwell)
Built with divine ambition! in diſdain
Of limit built! built in the taſte of Heav'n!
Vaſt concave! ample dome! waſt thou deſign'd
A meet apartment for the DEITY?---
Not ſo; that thought alone thy ſtate impairs,
Thy *lofty* ſinks, and ſhallows thy *profound*,
And ſtreightens thy *diffuſive*; dwarfs the whole
And makes an univerſe an *orrery*.

But when I drop mine eye, and look on man
Thy right regain'd, thy grandeur is reſtor'd,
O *nature!* wide flies off th' expanding round.
As when whole magazines, at once, are fir'd,
The ſmitten air is hollow'd by the blow;
The vaſt diſploſion diſſipates the clouds;
Shock'd æthers billows daſh the diſtant ſkies;
Thus (but far more) th' expanding round flies o
And leaves a mighty void, a ſpacious womb,
Might teem with new creation; re-inflam'd
Thy luminaries triumph, and aſſume
Divinity themſelves. Nor was it ſtrange,
Matter high-wrought to ſuch ſurpriſing pomp,
Such godlike glory, ſtole the ſtile of Gods,
From ages dark, obtuſe, and ſteep'd in *ſenſe*;
For, ſure, to *ſenſe*, they truly are divine,
And half abſolv'd idolatry from guilt;
Nay, turn'd it into virtue. Such it *was*
In thoſe, who put forth all they had of *man*
Unloſt, to lift their thought, nor mounted high
But, weak of wing, on planets perch'd; and thou
What was their higheſt, muſt be their ador'd.

But they how *weak*, who could no higher mou

And are there, then, *Lorenzo!* thoſe, to whom
Unſeen, and unexiſtent, are the ſame?
And if incomprehenſible is join'd,
Who dare pronounce it madneſs to *believe?*
Why has the mighty BUILDER thrown aſide
All meaſure in his work; ſtretch'd out his line
So far, and ſpread amazement o'er the whole?
Then (as he took delight in wide extremes)
Deep in the boſom of his univerſe,
Drop'd down that *reaſoning* mite, that inſect, *man*,
To crawl, and gaze, and wonder at the ſcene?---
That man might ne'er preſume to plead amazement
For diſbelief of wonders in *himſelf.*
Shall GOD be leſs miraculous, than what
His hand has form'd? ſhall *myſteries* deſcend
From *un-myſterious?* things more elevate,
Be more familiar? uncreated ly
More obvious than created, to the graſp
Of human thought? the *more* of wonderful
Is heard in *him*, the *more* we ſhould aſſent.
Could we conceive *him*, GOD he could not be;
Or *he* not GOD, or *we* could not be *men.*
A GOD alone can comprehend a GOD;
Man's diſtance how immenſe? On *ſuch* a theme,
Know this, *Lorenzo!* (ſeem it ne'er ſo ſtrange)
Nothing can *ſatisfy*, but what *confounds;*
Nothing but what *aſtoniſhes* is *true.*
The ſcene thou ſeeſt atteſts the truth I ſing,
And ev'ry ſtar ſheds light upon thy creed.
Theſe ſtars, this furniture, this coſt of heav'n,
If but *reported*, thou hadſt ne'er believ'd;
But thine *eye* tells thee, the *romance* is true.

The grand of nature is th' Almighty's oath,
In *reaſon*'s court, to ſilence *unbelief*.
How my mind, op'ning at this ſcene, imbibes
The moral emanations of the ſkies,
While nought, perhaps, *Lorenzo* leſs admires!
Has the great Sov'reign ſent ten thouſand worlds
To tell us, *He* reſides above them all,
In glory's unapproachable receſs?
And dare *earth*'s bold inhabitants deny
The ſumptuous, the magnific embaſſy
A moment's audience? turn we, nor will hear
From whom they come, or what they would impart
For man's emolument; ſole cauſe that ſtoops
Their grandeur to man's eye? *Lorenzo!* rouſe;
Let thought, awaken'd, take the light'ning's wing,
And glance from eaſt to weſt, from pole to pole.
Who ſees, but is confounded, or convinc'd?
Renounces *reaſon*, or a GOD adores?
Mankind was ſent into the world to *ſee*:
Sight gives the ſcience needful to their peace;
That obvious ſcience aſks *ſmall* learning's aid.
Wouldſt thou on metaphyſic pinions ſoar?
Or wound thy patience amid logic thorns?
Or travel hiſtory's enormous round?
Nature no ſuch hard taſk enjoins: ſhe gave
A make to man directive of his thought;
A make ſet upright, pointing to the ſtars,
As who ſhall ſay, "Read thy chief leſſon there."
Too late to read this manuſcript of heav'n,
When, like a parchment-ſcroll, ſhrunk up by flames,
It folds *Lorenzo*'s leſſon from his ſight.

Leſſon how various! Not the GOD alone,

I ſee his *miniſters*; I ſee, diffus'd
In radiant orders, eſſences ſublime,
Of various offices, of various plume,
In heav'nly liveries, diſtinctly clad,
Azure, green, purple, pearl, or downy gold,
Or all commix'd; they ſtand, with wings outſpread,
Liſt'ning to catch the Maſter's leaſt command,
And fly thro' *nature*, ere the moment ends;
Numbers innumerable!——Well conceiv'd
By *Pagan*, and by *Chriſtian!* o'er each ſphere
Preſides an angel, to direct its courſe,
And feed, or fan, its flames; or to diſcharge
Other high truſts unknown. For who can ſee
Such pomp of matter, and imagine, *mind*,
For which *alone* inanimate was made,
More ſparingly diſpens'd? that nobler ſon,
Far liker the great Sire!——'Tis thus the ſkies
Inform us of ſuperiors numberleſs,
As much, in *excellence*, above mankind,
As above *earth*, in *magnitude*, the *ſpheres*.
Theſe, as a cloud of witneſſes, hang o'er us;
In a throng'd theatre are all our deeds;
Perhaps, a thouſand demigods deſcend
On ev'ry beam we ſee, to walk with men.
Awful reflexion! ſtrong reſtraint from ill!
Yet *here*, our virtue finds ſtill ſtronger aid
From theſe ethereal glories *ſenſe* ſurveys.
Something, like magic, ſtrikes from this blue vault;
With juſt attention is it view'd? we feel
A ſudden ſuccour, un-implor'd, un-thought;
Nature herſelf does half the work of man.
Seas, rivers, mountains, foreſts, deſerts, rocks,

The promontory's height, the depth profound
Of ſubterranean, excavated grots,
Black-brow'd, and vaulted high, and yawning wid
From *nature*'s ſtructure, or the ſcoop of *time*;
If ample of dimenſion, vaſt of ſize,
Ev'n *theſe* an aggrandizing impulſe give;
Of ſolemn thought enthuſiaſtic heights
Ev'n *theſe* infuſe.—But what of vaſt in *theſe*?
Nothing;—or we muſt own the ſkies forgot.
Much leſs in *art*.—Vain *art!* thou pygmy-pow'
How doſt thou ſwell, and ſtrut, with human prid
To ſhew thy littleneſs! what childiſh toys,
Thy watry columns ſquirted to the clouds!
Thy baſon'd rivers, and impriſon'd ſeas!
Thy mountains moulded into forms of men!
Thy hundred-gated *capitals!* or thoſe
Where three days travel left us much to ride;
Gazing on miracles by mortals wrought,
Arches triumphal, theatres immenſe,
Or nodding *gardens* pendent in mid-air!
Or *temples* proud to meet their gods half-way!
Yet *theſe* affect us in no common kind.
What then the force of ſuch ſuperior ſcenes!
Enter a temple, it will ſtrike an awe:
What awe from this the DEITY has built!
A *good man* ſeen, tho' ſilent, counſel gives:
The touch'd ſpectator wiſhes to be wiſe:
In a bright mirror his own hands have made,
Here we ſee ſomething like the face of God.
Seems it not then enough, to ſay, *Lorenzo!*
To man abandon'd, "*Haſt thou ſeen the ſkies?*"

And yet, ſo thwarted nature's kind deſign

By daring man, he makes her ſacred awe
(That guard from ill) his ſhelter, his temptation
To more than common guilt, and quite inverts
Celeſtial art's intent. The trembling ſtars
See crimes gigantic, ſtalking thro' the gloom
With front erect, that hide their head by day,
And making night ſtill *darker* by their deeds.
Slumb'ring in covert, till the ſhades deſcend,
Rapine, and *murder*, link'd, now prowl for prey.
The miſer earths his treaſure; and the thief,
Watching the mole, half-beggars him ere morn.
Now *plots*, and foul *conſpiracies*, awake;
And muffling up their horrors from the moon,
Havoc and devaſtation they prepare,
And kingdoms tott'ring in the field of blood.
Now ſons of riot in mid-revel rage.
What ſhall I do?—ſuppreſs it? or proclaim?—
Why *ſleeps* the thunder? now, *Lorenzo!* now,
His beſt friend's couch the rank adulterer
Aſcends ſecure; and laughs at gods and men.
Prepoſt'rous madmen, void of fear or ſhame.
Lay their crimes bare to theſe chaſte eyes of heav'n;
Yet ſhrink and ſhudder, at a mortal's ſight.
Were moon, and ſtars, for villains *only* made?
To *guide*, yet *ſcreen* them, with tenebrious light?
No; they were made to faſhion the ſublime
Of human hearts, and *wiſer* make the *wiſe*.
Thoſe ends were anſwer'd once; when mortals liv'd
Of ſtronger wing, of acquiline aſcent,
In theory ſublime. O how unlike
Thoſe vermin of the night, this moment ſung,
Who crawl on *earth*, and on her venom feed!

Thoſe ancient ſages, *human* ſtars! they met
Their brothers of the *ſkies*, at midnight hour;
Their counſel aſk'd; and, what they aſk'd, *obey*'d.
The *Stagyrite*, and *Plato*, he who drank
The poiſon'd bowl, and he of *Tuſculum*,
With him of *Corduba*, (immortal names!)
In theſe unbounded, and *Elyſian*, walks,
An area fit (or gods, and godlike men,
They took their nightly round, thro' radiant paths
By *Seraphs* trod; inſtructed, chiefly thus,
To tread in their bright footſteps here below;
To walk in worth ſtill brighter than the ſkies.
There they contracted their contempt of *earth*;
Of hopes eternal kindled, *there*, the fire;
There, as in near approach, they glow'd, and grew
(Great viſitants!) more intimate with GOD,
More worth to *men*, more joyous to *themſelves*.
Thro' *various virtues*, they, with ardour, ran
The *Zodiac* of their learn'd, illuſtrious lives.
In *Chriſtian* hearts, O for a *Pagan* zeal!
A *needful*, but *opprobrious* pray'r! as much
Our *ardour* leſs, as greater is our *light*.
How monſtrous this in *mortals!* ſcarce more ſtrange
Would this *phænomenon* in nature ſtrike,
A *ſun* that froze us, or a *ſtar* that warm'd.
What taught theſe heroes of the moral world?
To theſe thou giv'ſt thy praiſe, give *credit* too.
Theſe doctors ne'er were penſion'd to deceive thee;
And *Pagan* tutors are thy taſte.—They taught,
That, narrow views betray to miſery:
That, wiſe it is to comprehend the whole:
That, *virtue* roſe from *nature*, ponder'd well,

The ſingle baſe of virtue built to heav'n:
That, GOD and *nature*, our attention claim:
That, *nature* is the glaſs reflecting GOD,
As, by the *ſea*, reflected is the *ſun*,
Too glorious to be gaz'd on in his ſphere:
That, *mind immortal* loves *immortal* aims:
That, *boundleſs mind* affects a *boundleſs ſpace*:
That vaſt ſurveys, and the ſublime of things,
The ſoul aſſimilate, and make her great:
That, therefore, heav'n her glories, as a fund
Of inſpiration, thus ſpreads out to man.
Such are their doctrines; *ſuch* the *night* inſpir'd.
And what more true? what truth of greater weight?
The ſoul of man was made to walk the ſkies;
Delightful outlet of her priſon *here!*
There, diſincumber'd from her chains, the ties
Of toys terreſtrial, ſhe can rove at large;
There, freely can reſpire, dilate, extend,
In full proportion let looſe all her pow'rs;
And, *undeluded*, graſp at ſomething great.
Nor, as a ſtranger, does ſhe wander there;
But, wonderful herſelf, thro' wonder ſtrays;
Contemplating *their* grandeur, finds *her own*:
Dives deep in their œconomy divine,
Sits high in judgement on their various laws,
And, like a maſter, judges not amiſs.
Hence greatly pleas'd, and juſtly proud, the ſoul
Grows conſcious of her birth celeſtial; breathes
More life, more vigour, in her native air;
And feels herſelf *at home* among the ſtars;
And, feeling, emulates her country's praiſe.
What call we, then, the firmament, *Lorenzo!*

As *earth* the body, ſince the *ſkies* ſuſtain
The ſoul with food, that gives immortal life,
Call it, the noble paſture of the *mind*;
Which there expatiates, ſtrengthens, and exults,
And riots through the luxuries of thought.
Call it, the garden of the DEITY,
Bloſſom'd with ſtars, redundant in the growth
Of fruit ambroſial; *moral* fruit to man.
Call it, the breaſt-plate of the true High-prieſt,
Ardent with gems oracular, that give,
In points of higheſt moment, right reſponſe;
And ill-neglected, if we prize our peace.
Thus, have we found a *true* aſtrology;
Thus, have we found a new, a noble ſenſe,
In which *alone* ſtars govern human fates.
O that the *ſtars* (as ſome have feign'd) let fall
Bloodſhed, and havoc, on embattl'd realms,
And reſcu'd *monarchs* from ſo black a guilt!
Bourbon! this wiſh how gen'rous in a foe!
Wouldſt thou be great, wouldſt thou become a god
And ſtick thy deathleſs name among the ſtars,
For mighty conqueſts on a needle's point?
Inſtead of forging chains for *foreigners*,
Baſtile thy *tutor*: grandeur all thy *aim*?
As yet thou know'ſt not what it is: how great,
How glorious, *then* appears the *mind* of man,
When in it all the ſtars, and planets, roll!
And what it *ſeems* it *is*: *great* objects make
Great minds, enlarging as their views enlarge;
Thoſe ſtill more godlike, as *theſe* more divine.
And *more* divine than *theſe*, thou canſt not ſee.
Dazzl'd, o'erpower'd, with the delicious draught

Of miſcellaneous ſplendors, how I reel
From thought to thought, inebriate without end!
An *Eden*, this! a *paradiſe unloſt!*
I meet the DEITY in ev'ry view,
And tremble at my nakedneſs before him!
O that I could but reach the *tree of life!*
For *here* it grows, unguarded from our taſte;
No *flaming ſword* denies our entrance *here;*
Would man but gather, he might *live for ever.*
Lorenzo! much of *moral* haſt thou ſeen.
Of curious arts art thou more fond? then mark
The *mathematic* glories of the ſkies;
In number, weight, and meaſure, all ordain'd.
Lorenzo's boaſted builders, *chance*, and *fate*,
Are left to finiſh his aerial towers:
Wiſdom, and *choice*, their well-known characters
Here deep-impreſs; and claim it for their own.
Tho' ſplendid all, no ſplendor void of uſe;
Uſe rivals *beauty; art* contends with *pow'r;*
No wanton waſte, amid effuſe expence;
The great *Oeconomiſt* adjuſting all
To prudent pomp, magnificently wiſe.
How rich the proſpect! and for ever new!
And *neweſt* to the man that views it *moſt;*
For newer ſtill in infinite ſucceeds.
Then, then aerial races, O how ſwift!
How the ſhaft *loiters* from the ſtrongeſt ſtring!
Spirit alone can diſtance the career.
Orb above orb aſcending without end!
Circle in circle, without end, inclos'd!
Wheel within wheel; *Ezekiel!* like to thine!
Like thine, it ſeems a viſion, or a dream;

Tho' *ſeen*, we labour to believe it *true!*
What involution! what extent! what ſwarms
Of worlds, that laugh at *earth*! immenſely great!
Immenſely diſtant from each other's ſpheres!
What, then, the wondrous *ſpace* thro' which they roll!
At once it quite ingulphs all human thought!
'Tis comprehenſion's abſolute defeat.

Nor think thou ſeeſt a wild diſorder here;
Thro' this illuſtrious chaos to the ſight
Arrangement neat, and chaſteſt order, reign.
The path preſcrib'd, inviolably kept,
Upbraids the lawleſs ſallies of mankind.
Worlds, ever thwarting, never interfere;
What knots are ty'd! how ſoon are they diſſolv'd,
And ſet the ſeeming marry'd planets free!
They rove for ever, without error rove;
Confuſion unconfus'd! nor leſs admire
This tumult untumultuous; all on wing!
In motion, all! yet what profound repoſe!
What fervid action, yet no noiſe! as aw'd
To ſilence, by the preſence of their LORD;
Or huſh'd, by *his* command, in love to man,
And bid let fall ſoft beams on human reſt,
Reſtleſs themſelves. On yon cerulean plain,
In exultation to *their* GOD, and *thine*,
They dance, they ſing eternal jubilee,
Eternal celebration of *his* praiſe.
But, ſince their *ſong* arrives not at out ear,
Their *dance* perplex'd exhibits to the ſight
Fair *hieroglyphic* of *his* peerleſs power.
Mark, how the *labyrinthian* turns they take,
The circles intricate, and myſtic maze,

Weave the grand cypher of *Omnipotence;*
To *Gods*, how great! how legible to *man!*
Leaves ſo much wonder greater wonder ſtill?
Where are the pillars that ſupport the ſkies?
What more than *Atlantean* ſhoulder props
Th' incumbent load? what magic, what ſtrange art,
In fluid air theſe pond'rous orbs ſuſtains?
Who would not think them hung in golden chains?--
And ſo they are; in the high will of Heav'n,
Which fixes all; makes adamant of air,
Or air of adamant; makes all of nought,
Or nought of all; if *ſuch* the dread decree.
Imagine from their deep foundations torn
The moſt gigantic ſons of earth, the broad
And tow'ring *Alps*, all toſt into the ſea;
And, light as down, or volatile as air,
Their bulks enormous dancing on the waves,
In time, and meaſure, exquiſite; while all
The winds in emulation of the ſpheres,
Tune their ſonorous inſtruments aloft:
The concert ſwell, and animate the ball.
Would this appear amazing? What then, worlds,
In a far thinner element ſuſtain'd,
And acting the ſame part, with greater ſkill,
More rapid movement, and for nobleſt *ends?*
More *obvious* ends to paſs, are not theſe ſtars
The ſeats majeſtic, proud imperial thrones,
On which angelic delegates of heav'n,
At certain periods, as the SOV'REIGN nods,
Diſcharge high truſts of *vengeance*, or of *love*,
To clothe, in outward grandeur, grand deſign,
And acts moſt ſolemn ſtill more ſolemnize?

Ye citizens of air! what ardent thanks,
What full effuſion of the grateful heart,
Is due from man indulg'd in ſuch a ſight!
A ſight ſo noble! and a ſight ſo kind!
It drops *new* truths at ev'ry *new* ſurvey!
Feels not *Lorenzo* ſomething ſtir within,
That ſweeps away all period? As theſe ſpheres
Meaſure duration, they no leſs inſpire
The godlike hope of ages without end.
The boundleſs *ſpace*, thro' which theſe rovers take
Their reſtleſs roam, ſuggeſts the ſiſter-thought
Of boundleſs *time*. Thus, by kind *nature*'s ſkill,
To man unlabour'd, that important gueſt,
Eternity, finds entrance at the *ſight*:
And an *eternity*, for man ordain'd,
Or theſe his deſtin'd midnight-counſellors,
The *ſtars*, had never whiſper'd it to man.
Nature informs, but ne'er *inſults* her ſons.
Could ſhe then kindle the moſt ardent wiſh
To *diſappoint* it?---that is blaſphemy.
Thus, of thy creed a ſecond article,
Momentous, as th' exiſtence of a GOD,
Is found (as I conceive) where rarely ſought;
And thou mayſt read thy *ſoul immortal*, here.

Here, then, *Lorenzo!* on theſe glories dwell;
Nor want the guilt, illuminated, roof,
That calls the wretched *gay* to dark delights.
Aſſemblies?——this is one divinely bright?
Here, unendanger'd in health, wealth, or fame,
Range thro' the faireſt, and the *Sultan* ſcorn.
He, wiſe as *thou*, no *creſcent* holds ſo fair,
As that, which on his turbant awes a world;

And thinks the *moon* is proud to copy him.
Look on her, and gain more than worlds can give,
A mind ſuperior to the charms of *power*.
Thou muffled in deluſions of this life!
Can yonder *moon* turn ocean in his bed,
From ſide to ſide, in conſtant ebb, and flow,
And purify from ſtench his wat'ry realms?
And fails her *moral* influence? wants ſhe power
To turn *Lorenzo*'s ſtubborn tide of thought
From ſtagnating on *earth*'s infected ſhore,
And purge from nuiſance his corrupted heart?
Fails her attraction when it draws to heav'n?
Nay, and to what thou valu'ſt more, *earth*'s joy?
Minds elevate, and panting for *unſeen*,
And defecate from *ſenſe*, alone obtain
Full reliſh of exiſtence undeflower'd,
The *life* of life, the *zeſt* of worldly bliſs.
All elſe on earth amounts——to what? to *this*;
"*Bad* to be *ſuffer'd*; *bleſſiñgs* to be *left*:"
Earth's richeſt inventory boaſts no more.
Of higher ſcenes be, then, the call obey'd.
O let me gaze! of gazing there's no end.
O let me think!——thought too is wilder'd *here*:
In mid-way flight imagination tires;
Yet ſoon reprunes her wing to ſoar anew,
Her point unable to forbear, or gain;
So *great* the pleaſure, ſo *profound* the plan?
A banquet, this, where men and angels meet,
Eat the ſame *manna*, mingle earth and heav'n.
How diſtant ſome of theſe nocturnal ſuns!
So diſtant (ſays the ſage) 'twere not abſurd
To doubt, if beams, ſet out at *nature*'s birth,

Are yet arriv'd at this ſo foreign world;
Tho' nothing half ſo rapid as their flight.
An eye of awe and wonder let me roll,
And roll *for ever*: who can ſatiate ſight
In *ſuch* a ſcene? in ſuch an ocean wide
Of deep aſtoniſhment? where depth, height, breadth,
Are loſt in their extremes; and where to count
The thick ſown glories in this field of fire,
Perhaps a *ſeraph*'s computation fails.
Now go, *ambition!* boaſt thy boundleſs might
In conqueſt, o'er the tenth part of a grain.
And yet *Lorenzo* calls for miracles,
To give his tott'ring faith a ſolid baſe.
Why call for leſs than is *already* thine?
Thou art no novice in theology;
What is a *miracle?*——'tis a reproach,
'Tis an implicit ſatire, on mankind;
And while it *ſatisfies*, it *cenſures* too.
To common-ſenſe, great *nature*'s courſe proclaims
A deity: when mankind falls aſleep,
A *miracle* is ſent; as an alarm,
To wake the world, and prove *Him* o'er again,
By *recent* argument, but not more *ſtrong*.
Say, which imports more plenitude of power,
Or nature's laws to *fix*, or to *repeal?*
To *make* a ſun, or *ſtop* his mid-career?
To countermand his orders, and ſend back
The flaming courier to the frighted *eaſt*,
Warm'd and aſtoniſh'd, at his ev'ning ray?
Or bid the *moon*, as with her journey tir'd,
In *Ajalon's* ſoft, flow'ry vale repoſe?
Great things are theſe; ſtill greater, to *create*.

From *Adam*'s bow'r look down thro' the whole train
Of miracles;——reſiſtleſs is their power?
They do not, *can* not, more amaze the mind,
Than this, *call'd* unmiraculous ſurvey,
If *duly* weigh'd, if *rationally* ſeen.
If ſeen with *human* eyes. The *brute*, indeed,
Sees nought but *ſpangles* here; the *fool*, no more.
Say'ſt thou, "The courſe of *nature* governs all?"
The *courſe* of *nature* is the *art* of GOD.
The miracles thou call'ſt for, *this* atteſt;
For ſay, could *nature nature*'s courſe controul?
But, miracles apart, who ſees Him not,
Nature's *Controuler*, *Author*, *Guide*, and *End?*
Who turns his eye on *nature*'s midnight-face,
But muſt enquire—"What hand behind the ſcene,
"What arm almighty, put theſe wheeling globes
"In motion, and wound up the vaſt machine?
"Who rounded in his palm theſe ſpacious orbs?
"Who bowl'd them flaming through the dark profound,
"Num'rous as glitt'ring gems of morning-dew,
"Or ſparks from populous cities in a blaze,
"And ſet the boſom of *old night* on fire;
"Peopled her deſert, and made horror *ſmile?*"
Or, if the military ſtile delights thee,
(For ſtars have fought their battles, leagu'd with man)
"Who marſhals this bright hoſt? enrols their names?
"Appoints their poſts, their marches, and returns,
"Punctual, at ſtated periods? who diſbands
"Theſe vet'ran troops, their final duty done,

"If e'er diſbanded?"—*He*, whoſe potent word,
Like the loud trumpet, levy'd firſt their powers
In *night*'s inglorious empire, where they ſlept
In beds of darkneſs; arm'd them with fierce flames,
Arrang'd, and diſciplin'd, and cloath'd in gold;
And call'd them out of *chaos* to the field,
Where now they war with *vice* and *unbelief*.
O let us join this army! joining theſe,
Will give us hearts intrepid, at that hour,
When *brighter* flames ſhall cut a *darker* night;
When theſe ſtrong demonſtrations of a GOD
Shall hide their heads, or tumble from their ſpheres,
And one *eternal* curtain cover all!

Struck at *that* thought, as now awak'd, I lift
A more enlighten'd eye, and read the ſtars
To man ſtill more propitious; and their aid
(Tho' guiltleſs of idolatry) implore;
Nor longer rob them of their nobleſt name.
O ye *dividers of my time!* ye bright
Accountants of my days, and months, and years,
In your fair kalendar diſtinctly mark'd!
Since that authentic, radiant regiſter,
Tho' man inſpects it not, ſtands good againſt him;
Since *you*, and years roll on, tho' man ſtands ſtill;
Teach me my days to number, and apply
My trembling heart to *wiſdom*; now beyond
All ſhadows of excuſe for fooling on.
Age ſmooths our path to prudence; ſweeps aſide
The ſnares, keen *appetite*, and *paſſion* ſpread
To catch ſtray ſouls: and, woe to that grey head,
Whoſe *folly* would undo, what *age* has done!
Aid, then, aid, all ye ſtars!—much rather, Thou,

Great ARTIST! *thou*, whoſe finger ſet aright
This exquiſite *machine*, with all its *wheels*,
Tho' intervolv'd, exact; and pointing out
Life's rapid, and irrevocable flight,
With ſuch an *index* fair, as none can miſs,
Who lifts an eye, nor ſleeps till it is cloſs'd.
Open *mine* eye, dread DEITY! to read
The tacit doctrine of thy works; to ſee
Things as they *are*, unalter'd thro' the glaſs
Of worldly wiſhes. *Time*, *eternity!*
('Tis theſe, miſ-meaſur'd, ruin all mankind)
Set them before me; let me lay them both
In equal ſcale, and learn their various weight.
Let *time* appear a *moment*, as it *is*;
And let *eternity*'s full orb, at once,
Turn on my ſoul, and ſtrike it into heav'n.
When ſhall I ſee far more than charms me now?
Gaze on creation's model in *thy* breaſt
Unveil'd, nor wonder at the tranſcript more?
When, this vile, foreign, duſt, which ſmothers all
That travel *earth*'s deep vale, ſhall I ſhake off?
When ſhall my ſoul her incarnation quit,
And, re-adopted to thy bleſt embrace,
Obtain her *apotheoſis* in Thee?
Doſt think, *Lorenzo!* this is wand'ring wide?
No, 'tis directly ſtriking at the mark;
To wake thy *dead devotion* * was my point;
And how I bleſs *night*'s conſecrating ſhades,
Which to a *temple* turn an *univerſe*;
Fill us with great ideas, full of heav'n,
And antidote the peſtilential earth!

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In ev'ry ſtorm, that either frowns, or falls,
What an aſylum has the ſoul in pray'r!
And what a fane is *this*, in which to pray!
And what a GOD muſt dwell in ſuch a fane!
O what a genius muſt inform the ſkies!
And is *Lorenzo*'s ſalamander-heart,
Cold, and untouch'd, amidſt theſe ſacred fires!
O ye nocturnal ſparks! ye glowing embers,
On heav'n's broad hearth! who burn, or burn no more,
Who blaze, or die, as great JEHOVAH's breath,
Or blows you, or forbears; aſſiſt my ſong;
Pour your whole influence; exorcize his heart,
So long poſſeſt; and bring him back to *man*.
And is *Lorenzo* a demurrer *ſtill?*
Pride in thy parts provokes thee to conteſt
Truths, which conteſted, put thy *parts* to ſhame.
Nor ſhame they more *Lorenzo*'s *head* than *heart*.
A *faithleſs* heart, how deſpicably ſmall!
Too ſtreight, aught great, or gen'rous, to receive!
Fill'd with an atom! fill'd, and foul'd, with *Self!*
And ſelf miſtaken! ſelf, that laſts an hour!
Inſtincts and *paſſions*, of the nobler kind,
Ly ſuffocated there; or *they* alone,
Reaſon apart, would wake high hope; and open,
To raviſh'd thought, that *intellectual* ſphere,
Where, *order*, *wiſdom*, *goodneſs*, *providence*,
Their endleſs miracles of love diſplay,
And promiſe all the truly great deſire.
The mind that would be *happy*, muſt be *great*;
Great, in its *wiſhes*; great, in its *ſurveys*.
Extended views a narrow mind extend;

Push out its corrugate, expansive make,
Which, ere-long, *more* than planets shall embrace,
A man of *compass* makes a man of *worth*;
Divine contemplate, and become *divine*.
As man was made for glory and for bliss,
All littleness is in approach to woe;
Open thy bosom, set thy wishes wide,
And let in *manhood*; let in *happiness*;
Admit the boundless theatre of thought
From nothing, up to GOD; which makes a *man*.
Take GOD from *nature*, nothing great is left;
Man's mind is in a pit, and nothing sees;
Man's heart is in a jakes, and loves the mire.
Emerge from thy profound; erect thine eye;
See thy distress! how close thou art besieg'd!
Besieg'd by *nature*, the proud sceptic's foe!
Inclos'd by these innumerable worlds,
Sparkling conviction on the darkest mind,
As in a golden net of *Providence*,
How art thou caught, sure captive of belief!
From this thy blest captivity, what art,
What blasphemy to reason, sets thee free!
This scene is Heav'n's indulgent violence:
Canst thou bear up against this tide of glory?
What is earth bosom'd in these ambient orbs,
But, faith in GOD impos'd, and press'd on man?
Dar'st thou still litigate thy desperate *cause*,
Spite of these num'rous, awful, *witnesses*,
And doubt the *deposition* of the skies?
O how laborious is thy way to ruin!
Laborious? 'tis *impracticable* quite;
To sink beyond a *doubt*, in this debate,

With all his weight of wiſdom, and of will,
And crime flagitious, I defy a fool.
Some wiſh they *did*; but *no* man *diſbelieves*.
GOD is a *Spirit*: *Spirit* cannot ſtrike
Theſe groſs, material organs; GOD by man
As much is ſeen, as *man* a GOD can ſee.
In theſe aſtoniſhing exploits of power,
What order, beauty, motion, diſtance, ſize!
Conſertion of deſign, how exquiſite!
How complicate in their divine police!
Apt means! great ends! conſent to gen'ral good!—
Each attribute of theſe *material* gods,
So long (and that with ſpecious pleas) ador'd,
A ſep'rate conqueſt gains o'er rebel thought;
And leads in triumph the whole mind of man.
Lorenzo! this may ſeem *harangue* to thee:
Such all is apt to ſeem, that thwarts our will.
And doſt thou, then, demand a *ſimple* proof
Of this great maſter-moral of the ſkies,
Unſkill'd, or diſ-inclin'd to read it *there?*
Since 'tis the baſis, and all drops without it,
Take it, in one compact, unbroken chain.
Such proof inſiſts on an attentive ear;
'Twill not make one amid a mob of thoughts,
And for thy notice ſtruggle with the world.
Retire;—the *world* ſhut out;—thy thoughts call home;——
Imagination's airy wing repreſs;——
Lock up thy *ſenſes*;—let no *paſſion* ſtir;
Wake all to *reaſon*;—let *her* reign alone;——
Then, in thy *ſoul*'s deep ſilence, and the depth
Of *nature*'s ſilence, midnight, thus inquire,

As *I* have done; and ſhall enquire no more.
In nature's channel, thus the queſtions run.
" What am I? and from *whence?*—I nothing know
" But that I *am;* and, ſince I *am*, conclude
" Something *eternal:* had there ere been *nought*,
" *Nought* ſtill had been: *eternal* there *muſt* be.—
" But *what* eternal?—why not *human race?*
" And *Adam*'s anceſtors without an end?
" That's hard to be conceiv'd; ſince ev'ry link
" Of that long-chain'd ſucceſſion is ſo frail;
" Can ev'ry *part depend*, and not the *whole?*
" Yet grant it true; *new* difficulties riſe;
" I'm ſtill quite out at ſea; nor ſee the ſhore.
" Whence *earth*, and theſe bright *orbs?*—*eternal* too?——
" Grant *matter* was eternal; ſtill theſe *orbs*
" Would want ſome other father;—much deſign
" Is ſeen in all their *motions*, all their *makes*;
" *Deſign* implies *intelligence*, and *art*:
" *That* can't be from *themſelves*—or *man*; *that* art
" Man ſcarce can comprehend, could man beſtow?
" And nothing greater, yet allow'd, than *man*.—
" Who, *motion*, foreign to the ſmalleſt grain,
" Shot thro' vaſt maſſes of enormous weight?
" Who bid brute *matter*'s reſtive lump aſſume
" Such various forms, and gave it wings to fly?
" Has matter *innate* motion? then each atom,
" Aſſerting its indiſputable right
" To dance, would form an univerſe of duſt:
" Has matter *none?* then whence theſe glorious forms,

" And boundleſs flights, from *ſhapeleſs*, and *repos'd*?
" Has matter *more* than motion? has it thought,
" Judgement, and genius? is it deeply learn'd
" In *mathematics*? has it fram'd *ſuch* laws,
" Which, but to *gueſs*, a *Newton* made immortal?—
" If ſo, how each *ſage* atom laughs at *me*,
" Who think a *clod* inferior to a *man!*
" If art, to form, and counſel, to conduct;
" And that with greater far, than human ſkill,
" Reſides not in each block;—a GODHEAD reigns.—
" Grant, then, inviſible, eternal Mind;
" *That* granted, all is ſolv'd. But, granting that,
" Draw I not o'er me a ſtill darker cloud?
" Grant I not that which I can ne'er conceive?
" A being without origin, or end!—
" Hail, human liberty! there is no GOD—
" Yet, why? on either ſcheme that knot ſubſiſts;
" Subſiſt it *muſt*, in GOD, or *humane race*;
" If in the laſt, how many knots beſide,
" Indiſſoluble all?——why chuſe it *there*,
" Where, choſen, ſtill ſubſiſt ten thouſand more?
" Reject it, where, *that* choſen, all the reſt
" Diſpers'd, leave *reaſon*'s whole horizon clear?
" This is not reaſon's dictate; *reaſon* ſays,
" Cloſe with the ſide where *one* grain turns the ſcale;
" What vaſt preponderance is here! can reaſon
" With louder voice exclaim——*Believe a* GOD?
" And *reaſon* heard, is the ſole mark of man.
" What things impoſſible muſt man think true,
" On any other ſyſtem! and how ſtrange
" To *diſbelieve*, through mere credulity!"
" If, in this chain, *Lorenzo* finds no flaw,

Let it for ever bind him to *belief*.
And where the link, in which a flaw he finds?—
And if a GOD there is, that GOD how great!
How great that *Pow'r*, whoſe providential care
Thro' theſe bright orbs dark centres darts a ray!
Of *nature* univerſal threads the whole!
And hangs *creation*, like a precious gem,
Tho' little, on the footſtool of his throne!
That little gem, how large! a weight let fall
From a fixt ſtar, in ages can it reach
This diſtant *earth?* ſay, then, *Lorenzo!* where,
Where ends this mighty building? where begin
The ſuburbs of creation? where, the wall
Whoſe battlements look o'er into the vale
Of non-exiſtence? *Nothing*'s ſtrange abode!
Say, at what point of ſpace JEHOVAH dropp'd
His ſlacken'd *line*, and laid his *balance* by;
Weigh'd *worlds*, and meaſur'd *infinite*, no more?
Where, rears his *terminating pillar* high
Its extra-mundane head? and ſays, to Gods,
In characters illuſtrious as the ſun,
I ſtand, the plan's proud period; I pronounce
The work accompliſh'd; the creation clos'd:
Shout, all ye Gods; nor ſhout, ye Gods alone;
Of all that lives, or, if devoid of life,
That reſts, or rolls, ye heights, and depths, reſound!
Reſound! reſound! ye depths, and heights, reſound!
Hard are thoſe queſtions?—anſwer *harder* ſtill.
Is *this* the ſole exploit, the ſingle birth,
The ſolitary ſon, of *pow'r divine*?
Or has th' Almighty Father, with a breath,
Impregnated the womb of diſtant *ſpace*?

Has *He* not bid, in various provinces,
Brother-creations the dark bowels burſt
Of *night* primæval; barren, now, no more?
And *he* the central ſun, tranſpiercing all
Thoſe *giant generations*, which diſport,
And dance as *motes*, in his meridian ray;
That ray withdrawn, benighted, or abſorb'd,
In that *abyſs of horror*, whence they ſprung;
While *chaos* triumphs, repoſſeſs'd of all
Rival *creation* raviſh'd from his throne?
Chaos! of *nature* both the womb, and grave!
Think'ſt thou my ſcheme, *Lorenzo*, ſpreads too wide?
In this *extravagant*?—no; this is *juſt*:
Juſt, in *conjecture*, tho' 'twere falſe in *fact*.
If 'tis an error, 'tis an error ſprung
From noble root, high thought of the Moſt-High.
But wherefore error? who can prove it ſuch?—
He that can ſet *Omnipotence* a bound.
Can man *conceive* beyond what GOD can *do*?
Nothing but *quite-impoſſible*, is *hard*.
He ſummons into being, with like eaſe,
A whole *creation*, and a ſingle *grain*.
Speaks he the word? a thouſand worlds are born!
A thouſand worlds? there's ſpace for millions more;
And in what ſpace can his great *fiat* fail!
Condemn me not, cold critic! but indulge
The warm *imagination*: why condemn?
Why not indulge ſuch thoughts, as ſwell our hearts
With fuller admiration of *that power*,
Who gives our hearts with ſuch high thoughts to ſwell?

Why not indulge in *his* augmented praiſe?
Darts not *his* glory a ſtill brighter ray,
The leſs is left to *Chaos*, and the realms
Of hideous *night*, where *fancy* ſtrays aghaſt;
And, tho' moſt *talkative*, makes no *report?*
Still ſeems my thought enormous; think again;
Experience 'ſelf ſhall *aid* thy lame belief.
Glaſſes (that revelation to the ſight!)
Have they not led us deep in the diſcloſe
Of fine ſpun *nature*, exquiſitely *ſmall;*
And, tho' *demonſtrated*, ſtill *ill conceiv'd?*
If then, on the reverſe, the mind would mount
In *magnitude*, what mind can mount too far,
To keep the balance, and creation *poiſe?*
Defect alone can err on ſuch a theme;
What is too great, if we the *cauſe* ſurvey?
Stupendous ARCHITECT! *thou*, *thou* art all!
My ſoul flies up and down in thoughts of *thee*,
And finds herſelf but at the centre ſtill!
I AM, thy name! *exiſtence*, all *thine own!*
Creation's nothing; flatter'd *much*, if ſtil'd
"*The thin*, *the fleeting atmoſphere of GOD.*"
O for the voice—of what? of whom?—what voice
Can anſwer to my wants, in *ſuch* aſcent,
As dares to deem one univerſe too ſmall!
Tell me, *Lorenzo!* (for now *fancy* glows,
Fir'd in the vortex of Almighty power)
Is not this home-creation, in the map
Of univerſal *nature*, as a ſpeck,
Like fair *Britannia* in our little ball;
Exceeding fair, and glorious, for its ſize,
But elſewhere, far out-meaſur'd, far out-ſhone?

In *fancy* (for the *fact* beyond us lyes)
Canſt thou not figure it, an *iſle*, almoſt
Too ſmall for notice, in the *vaſt* of being;
Sever'd by mighty ſeas of *unbuilt* ſpace,
From other *realms*; from ample *continents*
Of higher life, where nobler natives dwell;
Leſs *northern*, leſs remote from DEITY,
Glowing beneath the *line* of the SUPREME;
Where ſouls in excellence make haſte, put forth
Luxuriant growths; nor the late autumn wait
Of *human* worth, but ripen ſoon to gods?

Yet why drown *fancy* in ſuch depths as theſe?
Return, preſumptuous rover! and confeſs
The bounds of man; nor blame them, as too ſmall.
Enjoy we not full ſcope in what is *ſeen?*
Full ample the dominions of the ſun!
Full glorious to behold! how far, how wide,
The matchleſs monarch, from his flaming throne,
Laviſh of luſtre, throws his beams about him,
Farther, and faſter, than a thought can fly,
And feeds his planets with eternal fires!
This *Heliopolis*, by greater far,
Than the proud tyrant of the *Nile*, was built;
And *He* alone, who built it, can deſtroy.
Beyond *this city*, why ſtrays human thought?
One wonderful, enough for man to know!
One infinite, enough for man to range!
One firmament, enough for man to read!
O what voluminous inſtruction here?
What page of wiſdom is deny'd him? none;
If learning his chief leſſon makes him wiſe.
Nor is *inſtruction*, here, our only gain;

There dwells a noble *pathos* in the ſkies,
Which warms our paſſions, proſelytes our hearts.
How eloquently ſhines the glowing pole!
With what authority it gives its charge,
Remonſtrating great truths in ſtile ſublime,
Tho' ſilent, loud! heard earth around; above
The planets heard; and not unheard in hell;
Hell has her wonder, tho' too proud to praiſe.
Is *earth*, then, more infernal? has ſhe thoſe,
Who neither *praiſe* (*Lorenzo!*) nor *admire?*
Lorenzo's admiration, pre-engag'd,
Ne'er aſk'd the *moon* one queſtion; never held
Leaſt correſpondence with a ſingle ſtar;
Ne'er rear'd an altar to the *queen of heav'n*
Walking in brightneſs; or her train ador'd.
Their *ſublunary* rivals have long ſince
Engroſs'd his whole devotion; *ſtars* malign,
Which make the fond *aſtronomer* run mad;
Darken his *intellect*, corrupt his *heart*;
Cauſe him to ſacrifice his fame and peace
To momentary madneſs, call'd delight.
Idolater, more groſs than ever kiſs'd
The lifted hand to *Luna*, or pour'd out
The blood to *Jove!*—O Thou, to whom belongs
All ſacrifice! O thou great JOVE unfeign'd!
Divine Inſtructor! thy *firſt* volume, *this*,
For *man*'s peruſal; all in *capitals!*
In *moon* and *ſtars* (heav'n's golden alphabet!)
Emblaz'd to ſeize the ſight: who *runs*, may *read*;
Who *reads*, can *underſtand*. 'Tis unconfin'd
To *Chriſtian* land, or *Jewry*; fairly writ
In language univerſal, to *mankind*:

A language, lofty to be learn'd; yet plain,
To thoſe that feed the flock, or guide the plough,
Or, from his huſk, ſtrike out the bounding grain.
A language worthy the *great* Mind, that ſpeaks!
Preface and *comment*, to the *ſacred page!*
Which oft refers its reader to the ſkies,
As pre-ſuppoſing his firſt leſſon *there;*
And ſcripture-ſelf a *fragment*, *that* unread.
Stupendous book of wiſdom, to the wiſe!
Stupendous book! and open'd, *Night!* by thee.
By thee *much* open'd, I confeſs, O *night!*
Yet *more* I wiſh; but *how* ſhall I prevail?
Say, gentle *night!* whoſe modeſt, maiden beams
Give us a *new* creation, and preſent
The world's great picture, ſoften'd to the ſight;
Nay, kinder far, far more indulgent ſtill,
Say, thou, whoſe mild dominion's ſilver key
Unlocks our hemiſphere, and ſets to view
Worlds beyond number; worlds conceal'd by day
Behind the proud, and envious ſtar of noon!
Canſt thou not draw a deeper ſcene?—and ſhew
The mighty *Potentate*, to whom belong
Theſe rich *regalia* pompouſly diſplay'd
To kindle that high hope? Like him of *Uz*,
I gaze around; I ſearch on ev'ry ſide——
O for a glimpſe of Him my ſoul adores!
As the chas'd hart, amid the deſart waſte,
Pants for the living ſtream; for Him who made her,
So pants the thirſty ſoul amid the blank
Of ſublunary joys. Say, goddeſs! where?
Where, blazes *his* bright court? where burns his throne?

Thou know'ſt; for thou art near him; by thee, round
His grand pavilion, ſacred fame reports
The ſable curtain drawn. If not, can none
Of thy fair daughter-train, ſo ſwift of wing,
Who travel far, diſcover where *He* dwells?
A *ſtar* his dwelling pointed out *below*.
Ye *Pleiades! Arcturus; Mazaroth!*
And thou, *Orion!* of ſtill keener eye!
Say, ye, who guide the wilder'd in the waves,
And bring them out of tempeſt into port!
On which hand muſt I bend my courſe to find *him*;
Theſe courtiers keep the ſecret of their King;
I wake whole nights, in vain, to ſteal it from them.
I wake; and, waking, climb *night*'s radiant ſcale,
From ſphere to ſphere; the ſteps by nature ſet
For man's aſcent; at once to *tempt* and *aid*;
To *tempt* his eye, and *aid* his tow'ring thought;
Till it arrives at the *great goal* of all.
In ardent *contemplation*'s rapid car,
From *earth*, as from my barrier, I ſet out.
How ſwift I mount! diminiſh'd *earth* recedes;
I paſs the *moon*; and, from her farther ſide,
Pierce heav'n's blue curtain; ſtrike into *remote*;
Where, with his lifted tube, the ſubtile ſage
His artificial, airy journey takes,
And to *celeſtial* lengthens *human* ſight.
I pauſe at ev'ry *planet* on my road,
And aſk for him, who gives their orbs to roll,
Their foreheads fair to ſhine. From *Saturn*'s ring,
In which of *earths* an army might be loſt,
With the bold *comet*, take my bolder flight,
Amid thoſe *ſov'reign* glories of the ſkies,

Of independent, native luſtre, proud;
The ſouls of ſyſtems! and the lords of life,
Thro' their wide empires!—what behold I *now?*
A wilderneſs of wonders burning round;
Where *larger* ſuns inhabit *higher* ſpheres;
Perhaps the *villas* of deſcending gods!
Nor halt I here; my toil is but begun;
'Tis but the threſhold of the DEITY;
Or, far beneath it, I am grovelling ſtill.
Nor is it ſtrange; I built on a miſtake;
The grandeur of his works, whence *folly* ſought
For aid, to *reaſon* ſets his glory higher;
Who built thus high for worms (mere worms to *Him*;)
O where, *Lorenzo*! muſt the *Builder* dwell?
Pauſe, then; and, for a moment, here reſpire—
If human thought can keep its ſtation here.
Where am I?—where is *earth?*—nay, where art thou,
O *ſun?*—is the ſun turn'd recluſe?—and are
His boaſted expeditions ſhort to *mine?*
To *mine*, how ſhort! on nature's *Alps* I ſtand,
And ſee a thouſand firmaments beneath!
A thouſand ſyſtems! as a thouſand grains!
So *much* a ſtranger, and ſo *late* arriv'd,
How can man's curious ſpirit not inquire,
What are the natives of this world ſublime,
Of this ſo foreign, unterreſtrial ſphere,
Where mortal, *untranſlated*, never ſtray'd?
"O ye, as diſtant from my little home,
"As ſwifteſt ſun-beams in an age can fly!
"Far from my native element I roam,
"In queſt of new, and wonderful, to man;
"What province this, of *His* immenſe domain,

"Whom all obeys? or mortals here, or gods?
"Ye bord'rers on the coaſts of bliſs? what are you?
"A colony from heav'n? or, only rais'd,
"By frequent viſit from heav'n's neighbouring realms,
"To ſecondary gods, and half-divine?——
"Whate'er your nature, *this* is paſt diſpute,
"Far other life you live, far other tongue
"You talk, far other thought, perhaps, you think,
"Than man. How various are the works of GOD!
"But ſay, *what* thought? is *reaſon* here inthron'd,
"And abſolute? or *ſenſe* in arms againſt her?
"Have you *two* lights? or need you no *reveal'd?*
"Enjoy your happy realms their golden age?
"And had your *Eden* an abſtemious *Eve?*
"*Our Eve*'s fair daughters prove their pedigree,
"And aſk their *Adams*—"*Who would not be wife?*"
"Or, if your mother *fell*, are you *redeem'd?*
"And if redeem'd—is your REDEEMER *ſcorn'd!*
"Is this your final reſidence? if not,
"Change you your ſcene, *tranſlated?* or by *death?*
"And if by *death*, *what* death?—know you *diſeaſe?*
"Or horrid *war*?—with war, this fatal hour,
"*Europa* groans, (ſo call we a ſmall field,
"Where kings run mad). In *our* world, *death* deputes
"*Intemperance* to do the work of *age*;
"And, hanging up the quiver *nature* gave him,
"As ſlow of execution, for diſpatch
"Sends forth *imperial* butchers; bids them ſlay
"Their ſheep, (the ſilly ſheep they fleec'd before)
"And toſs him twice ten thouſand at a meal.
"Sit all *your* executioners on thrones?
"With *you*, can rage for plunder make a GOD?

" And *bloodſhed* waſh out ev'ry other ſtain?
" But you, perhaps, can't bleed: from matter groſs
" Your *ſpirits* clean, are delicately clad
" In fine ſpun æther; privileg'd to ſoar,
" Unloaded, uninfected; how unlike
" The lot of man! how few of human race
" By their own *mud* unmurder'd! how we wage
" Self-war eternal!——is your painful day
" Of hardy conflict o'er? or, are you ſtill
" Raw candidates at ſchool? and have you thoſe
" Who diſaffect *reverſions*, as with *us?*
" But what are *we*? you never heard of *man*,
" Or *earth*; the *bedlam* of the univerſe!
" Where *reaſon* (undiſeas'd with you) runs mad,
" And nurſes *folly*'s children as *her own*;
" Fond of the fouleſt. In the ſacred mount
" Of *holineſs*, where reaſon is pronounc'd
" *Infallible*; and *thunders*, like a god;
" Ev'n *there*, by *ſaints*, the *dæmons* are outdone;
" What *theſe* think wrong, our *ſaints* refine to right;
" And kindly teach *dull* hell her own black arts;
" *Satan*, inſtructed, o'er their *morals* ſmiles.——
" But *this*, how ſtrange to you, who know not *man!*
" Has the leaſt rumour of our race arriv'd?
" Call'd *here Elijah*, in his flaming car?
" Paſt by you the good *Enoch*, on his road
" To thoſe fair fields, whence *Lucifer* was hurl'd;
" Who bruſh'd, perhaps, your ſphere, in his deſcent,
" Stain'd your pure chryſtal æther, or let fall
" A ſhort eclipſe from his portentous ſhade?
" O! that the fiend had lodg'd on ſome broad orb
" Athwart his way; nor reach'd his preſent home,

"Then blacken'd *earth* with footſteps foul'd in hell,
"Nor waſh'd in *ocean*, as from *Rome* he paſt
"To *Britain*'s iſle; *too*, *too*, conſpicuous *there*!"
But this is all digreſſion. Where is *He*,
That o'er heav'n's battlements the felon hurl'd
To groans, and chains, and darkneſs? where is *He*,
Who ſees creation's ſummit in a vale?
He, whom, while man is *man*, he can't but ſeek;
And if he finds, commences *more* than man?
O for a teleſcope His throne to reach!
Tell me, ye learn'd on *earth*! or bleſt *above*!
Ye ſearching, ye *Newtonian* angels! tell,
Where, your great *Maſter*'s orb? his planets, where?
Thoſe *conſcious* ſatellites, thoſe *morning-ſtars*,
Firſt-born of DEITY! from central love,
By veneration moſt profound, thrown off;
By ſweet attraction, no leſs ſtrongly drawn;
Aw'd, and yet *raptur'd*; *raptur'd*, yet *ſerene*,
Paſt thought illuſtrious, but with borrow'd beams;
In ſtill *approaching* circles, ſtill *remote*,
Revolving round the ſun's eternal *Sire*?
Or ſent, in lines direct, on embaſſies
To nations—in what latitude?—beyond
Terreſtrial thought's horizon!——and on what
High errands ſent?——Here *human* effort ends;
And leaves me ſtill a ſtranger to *his* throne.
Full well it might! I quite miſtook my road;
Born in an age more curious, than devout;
More fond to fix the *place* of heav'n, or hell,
Than ſtudious *this* to ſhun, or *that* ſecure.
'Tis not the *curious*, but the *pious* path,
That leads me to my point: *Lorenzo*! know,

Without or *ſtar*, or *angel*, for their guide,
Who worſhip GOD, ſhall *find* him. Humble *love*,
And not proud *reaſon*, keeps the door of heav'n;
Love finds admiſſion, where proud *ſcience* fails.
Man's ſcience is the culture of his heart;
And not to loſe his plummet in the depths
Of *nature*, or the more profound of GOD.
Bither to know, is an attempt that ſets
The wiſeſt on a level with the fool.
To fathom *nature* (ill-attempted *here*!
Paſt doubt is deep philoſophy *above*;
Higher degrees in bliſs archangels take,
As deeper learn'd; the deepeſt, learning ſtill.
For, what a *thunder* of Omnipotence
(So might I dare to ſpeak) is *ſeen* in all!
In *man*! in *earth*! in more amazing *ſkies*!
Teaching this leſſon, *pride* is loth to learn——
"Not *deeply* to *diſcern*, not *much* to *know*,
"Mankind was born to *wonder* and *adore*."
And is there cauſe for higher *wonder* ſtill,
Than that which ſtruck us from our paſt ſurveys?
Yes; and for deeper *adoration* too.
From my late airy travel unconfin'd,
Have I learn'd nothing?—Yes, *Lorenzo*! this;
Each of theſe ſtars is a religious houſe;
I ſaw their altars ſmoke, their incenſe riſe,
And heard *Hoſannas* ring through ev'ry ſphere,
A ſeminary fraught with future gods.
Nature, all o'er is *conſecrated* ground,
Teeming with growths immortal, and divine.
The great *Proprietor*'s all-bounteous hand
Leaves nothing waſte; but ſows theſe fiery fields.

With ſeeds of *reaſon*, which to *virtues* riſe
Beneath *his* genial ray; and, if eſcap'd
The peſtilential blaſts of ſtubborn *will*,
When grown mature, are gather'd for the ſkies.
And is *devotion* thought too much on *earth*,
When beings, ſo ſuperior, homage *boaſt*,
And *triumph* in proſtrations to *the throne*?
But wherefore more of planets, or of ſtars?
Ethereal journeys, and, diſcover'd there,
Ten thouſand worlds, ten thouſand ways devout?
All *nature* ſending incenſe to *the throne*,
Except the bold *Lorenzos* of our ſphere?
Op'ning the ſolemn ſources of my ſoul,
Since I have pour'd, like feign'd *Eridanus*,
My flowing numbers o'er the flaming ſkies.
Nor ſee, of *fancy*, or of *fact*, what more,
Invites the muſe—here turn we, and review
Our paſt nocturnal landſcape wide;—then, ſay,
Say, then, *Lorenzo*! with what burſt of heart,
The whole, at once, revolving in his thought,
Muſt man exclaim, adoring, and aghaſt?
"O what a root! O what a branch is here!
"O what a father! what a family!
"Worlds! ſyſtems! and creations!—and creations,
"In one agglomerated cluſter, hung,
"* Great *Vine*, on *thee*, on *thee* the cluſter hangs;
"The filial cluſter! infinitely ſpread
"In glowing globes, with various beings fraught;
"And drinks (nectareous draught!) immortal life.
"Or, ſhall I ſay (for *who* can ſay enough?)
"A conſtellation of ten thouſand gems,

* John xv. 1.

" (And, O! of what dimenſion! of what weight!)
" Set in one *ſignet*, flames on the right hand
" Of *Majeſty divine*! the *blazing ſeal*,
" That deeply ſtamps, on all created *minds*,
" Indelible, *his* ſov'reign attributes,
" *Omnipotence*, and *Love*! *that*, paſſing bound;
" And *this*, ſurpaſſing that. Nor ſtop we *here*,
For want of *pow'r* in GOD, but *thought* in *man*.
" Even *this* acknowledg'd, leaves us ſtill in debt;
" If *greater* aught, that greater all is *thine*.
" *Dread* SIRE!—accept this *miniature* of *thee*;
" And pardon an *attempt* from mortal thought,
" In which archangels might have fail'd, unblam'd."
How ſuch ideas of th' *Almighty*'s *pow'r*,
And ſuch ideas of th' *Almighty*'s *plan*,
(Ideas not abſurd) diſtend the thought
Of feeble mortals! nor of *them* alone!
The fulneſs of the DEITY breaks forth
In *inconceivables* to men, and Gods.
Think, then, O think; nor ever drop the thought;
How low muſt *man* deſcend, when *Gods* adore!—
Have I not, then, accompliſh'd my proud boaſt?
Did I not tell thee, " * We would mount, *Lorenzo!*
" And kindle our devotion at the *ſtars*?"
And have I *fail'd*? and did I *flatter* thee?
And art all adamant? and doſt confute
All urg'd, with one irrefragable *ſmile*?
Lorenzo! *mirth*, how miſerable *here!*
Swear by the *ſtars*, by *Him* who made them, ſwear,
Thy heart, henceforth, ſhall be as pure as *they*:
Then *thou*, like *them*, ſhalt *ſhine*, like *them*, ſhalt *riſe*

* Page 288.

From low to lofty; from obſcure to bright;
By due gradation, *nature*'s ſacred law.
The *ſtars*, from whence?—aſk *Chaos*—*he* can tell.
Theſe bright temptations to idolatry,
From *darkneſs*, and *confuſion*, took their birth;
Sons of *deformity!* from fluid dregs
Tartarean, firſt they roſe to maſſes rude;
And then, to ſpheres opaque; then dimly ſhone;
Then brighten'd; then blaz'd out in *perfect day*.
Nature delights in progreſs; in advance
From worſe to better: but, when *minds* aſcend,
Progreſs, in part, depends upon *themſelves*.
Heav'n aids exertion; greater makes the great;
The *voluntary* little leſſens more.
O be a *man!* and thou ſhalt be a *god!*
And *half ſelf-made*!——ambition how divine!

O thou, ambitious of diſgrace alone!
Still undevout? unkindled?—tho' high taught,
School'd by the ſkies, and pupil of the ſtars;
Rank coward to the *faſhionable world*!
Art thou *aſham'd* to bend thy knee to Heav'n?
Curſt fume of pride, exhal'd from deepeſt hell!
Pride in *religion* is man's higheſt praiſe.
Bent on deſtruction! and in love with death!
Not all theſe luminaries, quench'd at once,
Were half ſo ſad, as one benighted mind,
Which gropes for happineſs, and meets *deſpair*.
How, like a widow in her weeds, the *night*,
Amid her glimm'ring tapers, ſilent ſits!
How ſorrowful, how deſolate, ſhe weeps
Perpetual dews, and ſaddens nature's ſcene!
A ſcene more ſad *ſin* makes the darken'd ſoul;

All comfort kills, nor leaves one ſpark alive.
Tho' blind of heart, ſtill open is thine eye:
Why ſuch magnificence in all thou ſeeſt?
Of *matter*'s grandeur, know, one end is this,
To tell the *rational*, who gazes on it—
"Tho' *that* immenſely great, ſtill greater *he*,
"Whoſe breaſt, capacious, can embrace, and lodge,
"Unburden'd, nature's univerſal ſcheme;
"Can graſp *creation* with a *ſingle* thought;
"*Creation* graſp; and not exclude its *Sire*."--
To tell him farther—"It behoves him much
"To *guard* th' important, yet-depending, fate
"Of being, brighter than a thouſand ſuns;
"One ſingle ray of *thought* outſhines them all."—
And if man hears obedient, ſoon he'll ſoar
Superior heights, and on his purple wing,
His purple wing bedrop'd with eyes of gold,
Riſing, where *thought* is *now* deny'd to riſe,
Look down *triumphant* on theſe dazzling ſpheres.
Why then perſiſt?---no mortal ever liv'd
But, *dying*, he pronounc'd (when words are true!)
The whole that charms thee, abſolutely vain;
Vain, and far worſe!---think thou, with dying men;
O *condeſcended* to think as angels think!
O *tolerate* a chance for happineſs!
Our nature ſuch, ill choice inſures ill fate;
And hell had been, tho' there had been no GOD.
Doſt thou not know, my new aſtronomer!
Earth, turning from the *ſun*, brings night to man?
Man, turning from his GOD, brings *endleſs* night:
Where thou canſt read no *morals*, find no *friend*,
Amend no *manners*, and expect no *peace*.

How *deep* the darkneſs! and the groan, how *loud*!
And far, how far, from *lambent* are the flames!
Such is *Lorenzo*'s purchaſe! ſuch his praiſe!
The proud, the politic, *Lorenzo*'s praiſe!
Tho' in his ear, and level'd at his heart,
I've half read o'er the volume of the ſkies,
For think not thou haſt heard all this from *me*;
My ſong but echoes what great *nature* ſpeaks;
What has ſhe ſpoken? thus the goddeſs ſpoke,
Thus ſpeaks for ever:—Place, at nature's head,
"A Sov'reign, which o'er all things rolls his eye,
"Extends his wing, promulgates his commands,
"But, above all, diffuſes endleſs good;
"*To whom*, for ſure redreſs, the wrong'd may fly;
"The vile, for mercy; and the pain'd, for peace;
"*By whom*, the various tenants of theſe ſpheres,
"Diverſify'd in fortunes, place, and powers,
"Rais'd in enjoyment, as in worth they riſe,
"Arrive at length (if worthy ſuch approach)
"At that bleſt fountain-head, from which they ſtream;
"Where conflict paſt redoubles preſent joy;
"And preſent joy looks forward on increaſe;
"And that, on more; no period! ev'ry ſtep
"A double boon! a *promiſe* and a *bliſs*."
How eaſy ſits *this* ſcheme on human hearts!
It ſuits their make; it ſoothes their vaſt deſires;
Paſſion is pleas'd; and *reaſon* aſks no more;
'Tis rational! 'tis great!---but what is *thine?*
It darkens! ſhocks! excruciates! and confounds!
Leaves us quite naked, both of help and hope,
Sinking from bad to worſe; few years, the ſport

Of *fortune*; then, the morſel of *deſpair*.
Say, then, *Lorenzo*! (for thou know'ſt it well)
What's *vice?*--mere want of compaſs in one thought.
Religion, what?--the proof of *common-ſenſe*;
How art thou whooted, where the *leaſt* prevails!
It is *my* fault, if *theſe truths* call thee *fool?*
And thou ſhalt never be *miſcall'd* by me.
Can neither *ſhame*, nor *terror*, ſtand thy friend?
And art thou *ſtill* an inſect in the mire?
How, like thy guardian-angel, have I flown?
Snatch'd thee from earth; eſcorted thee thro' all
Th' ethereal armies; walk'd thee, like a god,
Thro' ſplendors of firſt magnitude, arrang'd
On either hand; clouds thrown beneath thy feet;
Cloſe-cruis'd on the bright paradiſe of GOD;
And almoſt introduc'd thee to *the throne*!
And art thou ſtill carouſing, for delight,
Rank poiſon; firſt, fermenting to mere *froth*,
And then ſubſiding into final *gall*?
To beings of ſublime, *immortal* make,
How ſhocking is all joy, whoſe *end* is ſure!
Such joy *more* ſhocking ſtill, the more it *charms*!
And doſt thou chuſe what ends, ere well begun?
And infamous, as ſhort? and doſt thou chuſe
Thou, to whoſe palate *glory* is ſo ſweet)
To wade into *perdition*, thro' *contempt*,
Not of poor bigots only, but thy *own*?
For I have peep'd into thy cover'd heart,
And ſeen it bluſh beneath a boaſtful brow;
For, by ſtrong guilt's moſt violent aſſault,
Conſcience is but *diſabled*, not *deſtroy'd*.
O thou moſt awful being, and moſt vain!

Thy will, how *frail*! how *glorious* is thy power!
Tho' dread *eternity* has ſown her ſeeds
Of bliſs, and woe, in thy deſpotic breaſt;
Tho' heav'n, and hell, depend upon thy choice;
A butterfly comes 'croſs, and both are fled.
Is this the picture of a rational?
This horrid image, ſhall it be moſt juſt?
Lorenzo! no: it cannot,---*ſhall* not be,
If there is force in *reaſon*; or, in *ſounds*
Chanted beneath the glimpſes of the moon,
A magic, at this planetary hour,
When *ſlumber* locks the gen'ral lip, and dreams
Thro' ſenſeleſs mazes hunt ſouls *uninſpir'd*.
Attend---the ſacred myſteries begin---
My ſolemn *night-born* adjuration hear;
Hear, and I'll raiſe thy ſpirit from the duſt;
While the *ſtars* gaze on this inchantment *new*;
Inchantment, not infernal, but divine!
" By *ſilence*, *death*'s peculiar attribute;
" By *darkneſs*, *guilt*'s inevitable doom;
" By *darkneſs*, and by *ſilence*, ſiſters dread!
" That draw the curtain round *Night*'s ebon throne,
" And raiſe ideas, ſolemn as the ſcene;
" By *Night*, and all of awful, night preſents
" To *thought*, or *ſenſe* (of awful much, to both,
" The goddeſs brings); By theſe her trembling *fires*,
" Like *Veſta*'s, ever-burning! and, like *hers*,
" Sacred to thoughts immaculate and pure!
" By theſe bright orators, that *prove*, and *praiſe*,
" And preſs thee to revere the DEITY,
" Perhaps, too aid thee, when rever'd a while,
" To reach *His* throne; as *ſtages* of the ſoul,

" 'Thro' which, at diff'rent periods, ſhe ſhall paſs,
" Refining gradual, for her final height,
" And purging off ſome droſs at ev'ry ſphere!
" By this dark pall thrown o'er the ſilent world!
" By the world's kings, and kingdoms, moſt renown'd,
" From ſhort ambition's *zenith* ſet for ever;
" Sad preſage to vain boaſters, now in bloom!
" By the long liſt of ſwift mortality,
" From *Adam* downward to this ev'ning's knell,
" Which midnight waves in *fancy*'s ſtartled eye;
" And ſhocks her with an hundred centuries
" Round *death*'s black banner throng'd, in human thought!
" By thouſands, *now*, reſigning their laſt breath,
" And calling thee---wert thou ſo wiſe to hear!
" By tombs o'er tombs ariſing; human earth
" Ejected, to make room for---human earth;
" The monarch's *terror*! and the ſexton's *trade!*
" By pompous obſequies, that ſhun the day,
" The *torch* funereal, and the nodding *plume*,
" Which makes poor man's humiliation proud;
" Boaſt of our *ruin!* triumph of our *duſt*!
" By the damp vault that weeps o'er royal bones;
" And the pale lamp, that ſhews the ghaſtly dead,
" *More* ghaſtly thro' the thick incumbent gloom!
" By viſits, (if there are) from darker ſcenes,
" The gliding ſpectre! and the groaning grave!
" By groans, and graves, and miſeries that groan
" For the grave's ſhelter! By deſponding men,
" Senſeleſs to pains of death, from pangs of guilt!
" By guilt's laſt audit! By yon *moon* in blood,

"The rocking firmament, the falling ſtars,
"And thunder's laſt diſcharge, great nature's knell!
"By *ſecond chaos*; and *eternal night*."----
"BE WISE—Nor let *Philander* blame my *charm*;
But own not ill-diſcharg'd my double debt,
Love to the living, *duty* to the dead.
For know, I'm but executor; *He* left
This moral legacy; *I* make it o'er
By *his* command; *Philander* hear in me;
And Heav'n in both.—If deaf to theſe, oh! hear
Florello's tender voice; *his* weal depends
On *thy* reſolve; it trembles at thy choice;
For *his* ſake—love *thyſelf*: example ſtrikes
All human hearts; a *bad* example more;
More ſtill, a father's! that inſures his ruin.
As parent of his being, would'ſt thou prove
The unnatural parent of his miſeries,
And make him curſe the being which thou gav'ſt?
Is *this* the bleſſing of ſo fond a father?
If careleſs of *Lorenzo!* ſpare, oh! ſpare,
Florello's father, and *Philander*'s friend;
Florello's father ruin'd, ruins him;
And from *Philander*'s friend the world expects
A conduct, no diſhonour to the dead.
Let *paſſion* do, what *nobler motive* ſhould;
Let *love*, and *emulation*, riſe in aid
To *reaſon*; and perſuade thee to be—bleſt.
This ſeems not a requeſt to be deny'd;
Yet (ſuch th' infatuation of mankind!)
'Tis the moſt *hopeleſs*, man can make to man.
Shall I, then, riſe in argument, and warmth;
And urge *Philander*'s poſthumous advice,

From topics yet unbroach'd —
But oh! I faint! my ſpirits fail! nor ſtrange;
So long on wing, and in no middle clime;
To which my great CREATOR's glory call'd:
And *calls*—but, now, in vain. *Sleep*'s dewy wand
Has ſtrok'd my drooping lids, and *promiſes*
My long arrear of reſt; the *downy god*
(Wont to return with our returning *peace*)
Will *pay*, ere long, and bleſs me with repoſe.
Haſte, haſte, ſweet ſtranger! from the peaſant's cot,
The ſhip-boy's hammock, or the ſoldier's ſtraw,
Whence *ſorrow* never chas'd thee; with thee bring
Not hideous viſions, as of late; but draughts
Delicious of well-taſted, cordial, reſt;
Man's rich reſtorative; his balmy bath,
That ſupples, lubricates, and keeps in play,
The various movements of this nice machine,
Which aſks ſuch frequent periods of repair.
When tir'd with vain rotations of the day,
Sleep winds us up for the ſucceeding dawn;
Freſh we ſpin on, till *ſickneſs* clogs our wheels,
Or *death* quite breaks the ſpring, and motion ends.
When will it end with me;
——"THOU only know'ſt,
"*Thou*, whoſe broad eye the *future*, and the *paſt*,
"Joins to the *preſent*; making *one* of *three*
"To mortal thought? *thou* know'ſt, and, *thou* alone,
"All-knowing! — all-unknown! — and yet well-known!
"Near, tho' remote! and, tho' unfathom'd, felt!
"And, tho' inviſible, for ever ſeen!
"And ſeen in all! the *great*, and the *minute*:

" Each globe above, with its gigantic race,
" Each flow'r, each leaf, with its ſmall people ſwarm'd,
" Thoſe puny vouchers of *Omnipotence!*)
" To the firſt thought, that aſks, " *From whence?*"
" declare
" Their common ſource. *Thou* fountain running o'er
" In rivers of communicated joy!
" Who gav'ſt us ſpeech for far, far humbler themes!
" Say, by what name ſhall I preſume to call
" *Him* I ſee burning in theſe countleſs ſuns,
" As *Moſes* in the *buſh*? *illuſtrious Mind!*
" The whole creation, leſs, far leſs, to thee,
" Than *that*, to the creation's ample round.
" How ſhall I name *thee*?—How my labouring ſoul
" Heaves underneath the thought, too big for birth!
" Great ſyſtem of perfections! mighty cauſe
" Of cauſes mighty! cauſe uncaus'd! ſole root
Of *nature*, that luxuriant growth of GOD!
" Firſt Father of *effects!* that progeny
" Of endleſs ſeries; where the golden chain's
" Laſt link admits a period, who can tell?
" Father of all that is, or heard, or hears!
" Father of all that is, or ſeen, or ſees!
" Father of all that *is*, or *ſhall* ariſe!
" Father of this immeaſurable maſs
" Of *matter* multiform; or denſe, or rare;
" Opaque, or lucid; rapid, or at reſt;
" Minute, or paſſing bound! in each extreme,
" Of like amaze, and myſtery, to man.
" Father of theſe bright millions of the *night!*
" Of which the leaſt full GODHEAD had proclaim'd,

" And thrown the gazer on his knee—or ſay,
" Is appellation higher ſtill, thy choice?
" Father of *matter*'s temporary lords!
" Father of *ſpirits!* nobler offſpring! ſparks
" Of high paternal glory; rich endow'd
" With various meaſures, and with various modes
" Of *inſtinct*, *reaſon*, *intuition*; beams
" More pale, or bright from *day divine*, to break
" The dark of matter *organiz'd* (the ware
" Of all *created* ſpirit); beams, that riſe
" Each over other in ſuperior light,
" Till the laſt ripens into luſtre ſtrong,
" Of next approach to GODHEAD. Father fond
" Far fonder than e'er bore that name on earth)
" Of *intellectual* beings! beings bleſt
" With pow'rs to pleaſe *thee*; not of paſſive ply
" To laws they know not; beings lodg'd in ſeats
" Of well-adapted joys; in different domes
" Of this imperial palace for thy ſons;
" Of this proud, populous, well-policy'd,
" Tho' boundleſs habitation, plann'd by *thee*;
" Whoſe ſeveral clans their ſeveral climates ſuit;
" And tranſpoſition, doubtleſs, would deſtroy.
" Or, oh! indulge, immortal KING, indulge
" A title, leſs auguſt, indeed, but more
" Endearing; ah! how ſweet in human ears!
" Sweet in our ears! and triumph in our hearts!
" *Father of immortality to man!*
" A theme that * lately ſet my ſoul on fire.—
" And *Thou the next!* yet equal! *thou* by whom
" *That* bleſſing was convey'd; far more! was *bought*;

* Nights the ſixth and ſeventh.

" Ineffable the price! by whom all worlds
" Were made; and one redeem'd! illuſtrious light
" From light illuſtrious! *Thou*, whoſe *regal* power,
" Finite in *time*, but infinite in *ſpace*,
" On more than adamantine baſis fix'd,
" O'er more, far more, than diadems, and thrones,
" Inviolably reigns; the *dread* of gods!
" And oh! the *friend* of man! beneath whoſe foot,
" And by the mandate of whoſe awful nod,
" All regions, revolutions, fortunes, fates,
" Of high, of low, of mind, and matter, roll
" Thro' the ſhort channels of expiring *time*,
" Or ſhoreleſs ocean of eternity,
" Calm, or tempeſtuous (as *thy* Spirit breathes)
" In abſolute ſubjection!—and, O *Thou*,
" The glorious *Third!* diſtinct, not ſeparate!
" Beaming from *Both!* with both incorporate!
" And (ſtrange to tell!) incorporate with duſt!
" By condeſcenſion, as thy glory, great,
" Enſhrin'd in man! Of human hearts, if pure,
" Divine Inhabitant! the tie divine
" Of heav'n with diſtant earth! by whom, I truſt,
" (If not inſpir'd) uncenſur'd this addreſs
" To *thee*, to *them*—to whom?—Myſterious Power!
" Reveal'd—yet unreveal'd! Darkneſs in light;
" Number in unity! our joy! our dread!
" The *triple* bolt that lays all wrong in ruin!
" That animates all right, the *triple* ſun!
" Sun of the ſoul! her never-ſetting ſun!
" Triune, unutterable, unconceiv'd,
" Abſconding, yet demonſtrable, *Great God!*
" Greater than greateſt! better than the beſt!

" Kinder than kindeſt! with ſoft *pity*'s eye,
" Or (ſtronger ſtill to ſpeak it) with *thine own*,
" From thy bright throne, from that high firmament
" Where *thou*, from all eternity, haſt dwelt;
" Beyond archangels unaſſiſted ken;
" From far above what mortals higheſt call;
" From elevation's pinacle; look down,
" Through—What? confounding interval! thro' all,
" And more than lab'ring *fancy* can conceive,
" Through radiant ranks of eſſences unknown;
" Through hierarchies from hierarchies detach'd
" Round various banners of *Omnipotence*,
" With endleſs change of rapturous duties ſir'd;
" Through wond'rous beings interpoſing ſwarms,
" All cluſt'ring at the call, to dwell in *thee*:
" Thro' this wide waſte of worlds; this *viſta* vaſt,
" All ſanded o'er with ſuns; ſuns turn'd to *night*
" Before *thy* feebleſt beam—look down—down—
down,
" On a poor *breathing particle* in duſt,
" Or, lower,---an *immortal* in his crimes,
" His crimes forgive! forgive his virtues, too!
" Thoſe ſmaller faults; half converts to the right.
" Nor let me cloſe theſe eyes, which never more
" May ſee the ſun, (tho' night's deſcending ſcale
" Now weighs up morn, unpity'd, and unbleſt!
" In *thy* diſpleaſure dwells *eternal* pain;
" Pain, our averſion; pain, which ſtrikes me *now*:
" And, ſince all pain is terrible to man,
" Tho' tranſient, terrible; at *thy* good hour,
" Gently, ah gently, lay me in my bed,
" My *clay-cold bed*! by nature, now, ſo near;

" By nature, near; ſtill nearer by diſeaſe!
" Till then, be *this*, an emblem of my grave:
" Let it out-preach the preacher; ev'ry night
" Let it outcry the boy at *Philip*'s ear;
" That tongue of death! that herald of the tomb!
" And when (the ſhelter of thy wing implor'd)
" My *ſenſes*, ſooth'd, ſhall ſink in ſoft repoſe;
" O ſink *this* truth ſtill deeper in my ſoul,
" Suggeſted by my pillow, ſign'd by *fate*,
" Firſt, in *fate*'s volume, at the page of *man*.---
" *Man's ſickly ſoul, tho' turn'd and toſs'd for ever,*
" *From ſide to ſide, can reſt on nought but* thee;
" *Here, in full truſt: hereafter, in full joy.*
" On *thee*, the promis'd ſure eternal down
" Of ſpirits toil'd in travel, thro' this vale.
" Nor of *that* pillow ſhall *my* ſoul deſpond;
" For---love Almighty! love Almighty (ſing,
" Exult, creation!) love Almighty reigns!
" That death of *death*! that cordial of *deſpair*!
" And loud *Eternity*'s triumphant ſong!
" Of whom, no more;---for, O thou *Patron-God?*
" Thou *God*, and *mortal*! thence *more God* to man!
" Man's theme eternal! man's eternal theme!
" *Thou* can'ſt not 'ſcape *uninjur'd* from our *praiſe*.
" Uninjur'd from our praiſe can *He* eſcape,
" Who, diſemboſom'd from the *Father*, bows
" The heav'n of heav'ns, to kiſs the diſtant earth?
" Breathes out in agonies a ſinleſs ſoul!
" Againſt the *croſs*, *death*'s iron ſceptre breaks!
" From famiſh'd *ruin* plucks her human prey!
" Throws wide the gates celeſtial to his *foes*!

" Their *gratitude*, for ſuch a boundleſs debt,
" Deputes their *ſuff'ring brothers* to receive!
" And, if deep human guilt in payment fails;
" As deeper guilt, prohibits our *deſpair!*
" Injoins it, as our duty, to *rejoice!*
" And (to cloſe all) omnipotently kind,
" * *Takes his delights among the ſons of men.*"
What words are theſe?---And did they come
from heav'n?
And were they ſpoke to man? to guilty man?
What are all myſteries to love like this?
The ſongs of angels, all the melodies
Of choral Gods, are wafted in the ſound;
Heal and exhilarate the broken heart;
Though plung'd, before, in horrors dark as *night*:
Rich prelibation of *conſummate* joy!
Nor wait we diſſolution to be bleſt.
This final effort of the moral muſe,
How juſtly † *titled!* Nor for me alone;
For all that read; what ſpirit of ſupport,
What heights of *conſolation*, crown my ſong!
Then, farewell *night*! of darkneſs, now no more:
Joy breaks; ſhines; triumphs; 'tis eternal day.
Shall that which riſes out of *nought* complain
Of a few evils, paid with endleſs joys?
My ſoul! henceforth in ſweeteſt union join
The two ſupports of human happineſs,
Which ſome, erroneous, think can never meet;
True *taſte of life*, and conſtant *thought of death*!
The *thought* of death, ſole victor of its *dread*!
Hope be thy *joy*; and *probity* thy *ſkill*;

* Prov. chap. viii. † The *Conſolation.*

Thy *patron*, *He*, whoſe diadem has dropp'd
Yon gems of heav'n; *Eternity*, thy *prize*:
And leave the racers of the *world* their own,
Their feather, and their froth, for endleſs toils:
They part with all for that *which is not bread*;
They mortify, they ſtarve, on wealth, fame, power;
And laugh to ſcorn the *fools* that aim at more.
How muſt a ſpirit, late eſcap'd from earth,
Suppoſe *Philander*'s, *Lucia*'s, or *Narciſſa*'s,
The *truth of things* new-blazing in its eye,
Look back, aſtoniſh'd, on the ways of men,
Whoſe lives whole drift is to forget their graves!
And when our *preſent privilege* is paſt,
To ſcourge us with due ſenſe of its *abuſe*,
The *ſame* aſtoniſhment will ſeize us all.
What *then* muſt pain us, would preſerve us *now*.
Lorenzo! 'tis not yet too late: *Lorenzo*!
Seize wiſdom, ere 'tis torment to be wiſe;
That is, ſeize *wiſdom*, ere ſhe ſeizes *thee*.
For, what, my ſmall philoſopher! is *hell?*
'Tis nothing, but full knowledge of *the truth*,
When *truth*, reſiſted long, is ſworn our foe;
And calls *eternity* to do her right.

Thus, *darkneſs* aiding intellectual light,
And ſacred *ſilence* whiſp'ring truths divine,
And *truths divine* converting pain to peace,
My ſong the midnight raven has outwing'd,
And ſhot, ambitious of unbounded ſcenes,
Beyond the flaming limits of the world,
Her gloomy flight. But what avails the flight
Of *fancy*, when our *hearts* remain below?
Virtue abounds in flatterers, and foes?

'Tis pride to praiſe her; penance to perform.
To more than words, to more than worth of tongue
Lorenzo! riſe, at this auſpicious hour;
An hour, when Heav'n's moſt intimate with man
When, like a falling ſtar, the ray divine
Glides ſwift into the boſom of the *juſt*;
And juſt are all, *determin'd* to reclaim;
Which ſets that title high, within thy reach.
Awake, then; thy *Philander* calls: awake!
Thou, who ſhalt wake, when the creation ſleeps;
When, like a taper, all theſe ſuns expire;
When *time*, like him of *Gaza* in his wrath,
Plucking the pillars that ſupport the world,
In *nature*'s ample ruins lyes entomb'd;
And *midnight*, *univerſal* midnight! reigns.

BRITISH MUSEUM 30 60 DEC

End of the THIRD VOLUME.